



**murchisonshire**

*Ancient land under brilliant skies*

Agenda for the Ordinary Meeting of the

Murchison Shire Council

To be held in the Council Chambers, Carnarvon Mullewa Road, Murchison,  
on Thursday **28 August 2025**, commencing at 12 Noon.

*Ancient land under brilliant skies*

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## ATTACHMENTS

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## 1 DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

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Shire President declared the meeting open at

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## 2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE

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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

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## 3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

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### 3.1 Ordinary Council Meeting – 24 July 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 24 July 2025 be confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings.

Voting Requirements:

Simple Majority

<b>Council Decision</b>		
<b>Moved: Cr</b>	<b>Seconded: Cr</b>	
<b>Carried/Lost</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>

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## 4 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

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## 5 RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE

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Nil

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## **6 STANDING ORDERS**

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### 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

<b>Council Decision</b>
<b>Moved: Cr</b>
<b>Seconded: Cr</b>
<b>Carried/Lost</b>
<b>For</b>
<b>Against</b>

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## **7 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

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## **8 NEXT MEETING**

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Friday 26 September 2025

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## **9 APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

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## **10 URGENT BUSINESS**

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## **11 NOTICE OF ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED BEHIND CLOSED DOORS**

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

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## **12 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY PRESIDING PERSON WITHOUT DISCUSSION**

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## **13 PETITIONS/DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS/SUBMISSIONS**

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## **14 ANNOUNCEMENTS CONCERNING MEETINGS ATTENDED**

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### **14.1 Shire President**

### **14.2 Councillors**

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## **15 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

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Nil

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## 16 WORKS

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### 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 August 2025  
Attachments: Nil

#### Construction

The construction crew have started on the next section of prep for seal on the Carnarvon Mullewa road between where they finished the last job and Jiggernoo airstrip. They have encountered some minor mechanical issues and weather-related hold ups. In the down time some bitumen patching has also been done. Once new signage has arrived they will continue with rectifying signage issues as and when the opportunity arises.

The crews were also involved in the prep and cleanup work for the Murchison Camp Oven Muster.

#### Maintenance

Like construction they have had a disrupted month, also being involved in the MCOM event. They are continuing up the Beringarra Pindar Rd. for now. They will then head over to the Carnarvon Mullewa Rd. prior to the Landor rush. They will then have to do another grade post Landor to tidy up the same section. Hopefully the weather gods will be kind and give them some moisture to work with. If not, we are going to be in for a trying time when the summer sets in.

#### Flood Damage

These works are continuing all be it in a rather disjointed fashion so that the DFES conditions can be met.

#### SKA Route Works

Walladar are continuing with their upgrade work on the CGG section. We are facing a few challenges as far as material availability goes, which is not ideal. I believe the work that has already been completed has certainly improved the standard of the road considerably, especially with the floodway upgrades. The extra rainfall has helped even if it has caused a few frustrating delays for the contractor. Squires Resources have been engaged entirely in maintenance on the balance of the route.

#### Water Upgrade

Yuin threw the concrete slab for the chlorinator to stand on. We now await the arrival and installation of the chlorinator, bringing us a step closer to having potable water in the Settlement.

#### Power Upgrade

Hosken Electrical are proceeding with preparation and approvals. Hopefully by next Council meeting there will be more progress to report on.

#### MRWA Projects \*\*

As previously advised, we have put in a submission for additional MRWA Regional Road Funds available in 2025-26 for an additional length of reconstruction and widening works on sections of the Carnarvon-Mullewa Rd is being submitted between SLK185.52 and SLK187.33 north of the Jiggernoo Airstrip as an extension to this year's program. Application is being assessed in accordance with the established scoring methodology. \$211,500 Project with \$141,000 grant. This submission will max out the Regional Roads Group cap per local government. Any additional length if approved will be a bonus given the economies of scale involved. We still wait advice

Meanwhile we have submitted 5 similar reconstruction and widening projects between the Ballinyoo Bridge and Settlement 2026/27. Each is for a \$450,000 project with a \$300,000 grant.

**Recommendation**

That the Works Report be noted

**Voting Requirements**

Simple Majority

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

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## 17 DEVELOPMENT

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### 17.1 Corporate Business Plan

File: 2.15  
Author: Bill Boehm - Chief Executive Officer  
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose  
Date: 23 August 2025  
Attachments: 17.1.1 Corporate Business Plan August 2025

#### Matter for Consideration

Review of the Shire's Corporate Business Plan as part of Council's Planning for the Future.

#### Background

Pursuant to s 5.56 of the Local Government Act 1995 a local government is required to plan for the future its district through the preparation and adoption of various plans in accordance with Division 3 of the Local Government (*Administration*) Regulations 1996. As shown below this involves various elements with progress highlighted as follows

Reg	Plan	Latest Update	Progress
19C	<b>Strategic Community Plan</b>  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	<b>Corporate Business Plan</b>  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  Covers a period at least 4 years and to be reviewed annually	22 August 2024	This agenda Item
	Develops and integrate matters relating to resources including		
	Asset Management	22 August 2024	Update with 2025/26 Budget
	Workforce Planning as part of the Murchison Shire Organisational Rationale Recruitment Strategy	22 May 2025	
	Long-Term Financial Planning	22 August 2024	Update with 2025/26 Budget

Since 2017 work has continued to develop the scope of works and in delivering a range of Capital Works identified in the then Corporate Business Plan. However various significant changes had occurred since prompting a wider review. At the August 2023 Meeting revised Asset Management and Long-Term Financial Plans were updated and will be updated annually as part of the 2025/26 Budget consideration.



### Consultation

Bec Fogarty - Community Officer

### Comments

The attached Corporate Business Plan was significantly updated in June 2023. This 2025 version is merely an extension of this with progress comments also appearing in each year's Annual Report.

Given changes since 2017 the *Corporate Business Plan - Strategies & Actions Outline - June 2023 Section* has been updated with the following descriptors

current	this denotes that this element is currently in the existing Corporate Business Plan. ie no change just comments
complan	this denotes that this element was not in the existing Corporate Business Plan but was mentioned in the Community Strategic Plan... ie no real change just picking up what may have been missed and adding comments
new	these are new strategies and actions identified thus far

Some of the content of the plan directly relates to aspects associated with the Asset Management and Long-Term Financial Plans. All budget related aspects are addressed separately in the 2025/26 Budget, Asset Management Plan and Long-Term Financial Plan when these documents are updated.

### **Recommendation**

That Council note the Chief Executive Officer's Corporate Business Plan Report and adopt the Corporate Business Plan August 2025.

### Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

<b>Council Decision</b>		
<b>Moved: Cr</b>	<b>Seconded: Cr</b>	
<b>Carried/Lost</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>

## 17.2 Community Development Progress Report

File:

Author: Bec Fogarty – Community Officer  
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose  
Date: 25 August 2025  
Attachments: 17.2.1 Polocrosse Attendee Letter

### Matter for Consideration

Community Development Progress Report August 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>

### *Event Overview*

The purpose of the Murchison Camp Oven Muster is to create a wholesome annual event that embraces community participation, creating connectedness for all Muster goers through authentically Murchison experiences.

### *Event Progress*

The event was held August 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. The event received significant positive feedback from both working groups and public that were in attendance as shown the below feedback table. The event had over 175 guests at the events main attraction which was the long table dinner portion of the event.

### Event Feedback Summary

#	Question	Result Summary	Respondents
1	How was your overall experience?	8/10 – 3 9/10 – 6 10/10 - 14	23/23
2	Would you recommend the 2025 event to friends, family or acquaintances?	100% Yes	23/23
3	Suggestions for 2025 event	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Art Exhibition</li> <li>- More station focused sharing activities – farm to table, family games.</li> <li>- Muster dogs</li> <li>- More family games</li> <li>- A talk by one of the nearby station owners about what draws them, what keeps them there, challenges, daily life etc.</li> <li>- Philosophy and types of agriculture in the region.</li> <li>- Outback survival, bush first aid</li> <li>- Prospecting and fossicking.</li> </ul>	23/23

### Event Outcomes Report

Outcome	Measurement	Mechanism
Ticket Sales	Tickets Sold 115 Sponsor, Facilitator and Staff allocation - 60 (2024 - 85 Tickets sold from 47 orders)	Direct from booking platform and in person sales.
Active Participation	56 Camp Ovens for dinner 30+ Participants at individual experiences 23 Ticket holders who provide written feedback	Camp ovens counted Observation at experiences Post Event Survey
Attendance	20% Past or current Residents from Murchison LGA 30% Residents from neighbouring LGAS 50% Visitors and Tourists	This information has been taken from booking information.
Event Satisfaction	All ticket holders who answered the survey said they would recommend the event to friends and family. All ticket holders who answered the survey rated their experience between 8/10 and 10/10. The survey received 23 responses in total 14 rated the experience 10/10 6 rated the experience 9/10 3 rated the experience 8/10	Post Event Survey

Expenses	Expected	Actual	Notes
Marketing	\$3,600.00	\$3,025.23	Pre, during and post includes photography and videography
Attractions	\$25,000.00	\$22,649.94	Vendors - 1 invoice for \$1000 still to arrive not included
Infrastructure	\$11,000.00	\$9,898.50	St John, Production, Hire equipment
Furniture and Equipment	\$-	\$1,872.08	SoM Assets
Administration	\$950.00	\$818.34	Small costs, printing, tags, water
Accommodation	\$2,610.00	\$3,525.00	Cabins and bush camping
Shire Works			Still to be confirmed
Contingency	\$5,000.00		
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$48,160.00</b>	<b>\$41,789.09</b>	

The working group has met and decided on the date for the 2026 event this will be July 31<sup>st</sup> and August 1<sup>st</sup> with a theme of pastoralism. This aligns nicely with the attendee feedback that was received but also the international year of the pastoralist. This is a great opportunity to highlight and share who the pastoral community are and the important role it plays. The plan is to release a save the date as soon as possible.



*Images of the event*





## 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>

### *Upcoming events*

Annual Christmas Tree 13<sup>th</sup> December.

### *Tourism Partner News*

**Murchison Geo-Region** are working on an updated version of the trail booklet. MGR are working on land access with Pastoralists which has become complicated since the introduction of the pastoral framework.

**AGO** 2026 Holiday Planner is being constructed in-house to be able to respond to the changing needs of the audience the resource serves and the clients that advertise by this method which includes us. Expect to see a renewed vision of this publication that is more image based.

**Tourism Council of WA** have been working on an advocacy piece surrounding WA public holidays and tourism businesses. The submission made calls for

- ~ No additional public holiday on Easter Saturday which would cause 76% of tourism businesses to close or increase prices.
- ~ Reschedule WA Day provided a June public holiday long weekend is retained for winter tourism to northern WA (eg. King's Birthday public holiday in early June).
- ~ Ensure WA Day and any additional public holiday are scheduled on a Monday outside school holidays to create a new long weekend for travel to regional WA.
- ~ Consider scheduling an additional public holiday on the Tuesday following WA Day to create a super long weekend for extended travel in regional WA.

This submission was informed by the WA Public Holidays Consultation Survey.

### Murchison Polocrosse 2025

The Murchison Polocrosse event took place on July 12 and 13. This was a multi-horse tournament with Grades A, B, C, D, E, Junior E and Subbies participating. The event attracted over 200 people of all ages to the Settlement.

The Caravan Park was fully booked with additional powered sites supplied due to some quick thinking and assistance from Will. 31 dirt camping sites were registered at the Roadhouse which accounted for roughly 50% of the patrons utilising the dirt camping area. The Roadhouse staff did a great job of implementing the Dirt Camping fee and serving the many customers over the weekend. The new ablution facilities were much appreciated with many looking forward to coming back when the pool has been opened.

The Shire supported the Murchison Polocrosse event with in-kind support to the total of \$18,632 this took the form of staff, plant and resources that enabled the polocrosse fields to be prepared and maintained throughout the event and for rubbish to be cleared at facilities during the event.

Copy of a letter from one patron is attached.



## Roadhouse Update



July has seen the number of transactions and values of those transactions increase based on the same time in 2024. General feedback from visitors is that they are staying additional nights as they did not realise how much there is to see and do here. The botanical walk and museum being their highlights with day trips to Errabiddy Bluff and Wooleen Station. As you can see dirt camping sites are now also reported on in the accommodation data.

From our data collection we are starting to see trends that support our existing assumptions but also goals within the community strategic plan. Here is a few points to note.

- ~ Almost 70% of visitors surveyed are 55 – 74 years of age, 75% are travelling with their partner
- ~ 54% are retired while 29% are employed full-time
- ~ 42% are staying overnight 42% are staying a couple of nights

The Roadhouse will soon begin a trial program with a local resident utilising the community centre kitchen to prepare fresh baked good for Roadhouse customers to enjoy. We hope to build this to also include savoury options that can utilise community garden produce in the future.

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 16 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

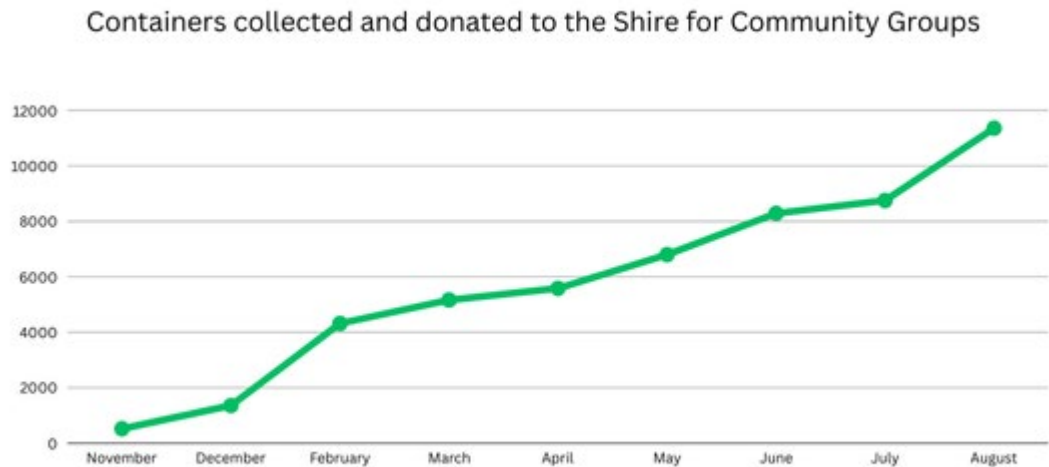
Development of an Interpretative Centre was identified within the Tourism Development Strategies of the 2013 Strategic Community Plan.
- Tourism Development

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 latest return of containers has seen the total number of recycled vessels reach 11,357 produced or donated to the shire that is a running total of \$1,135.70 going back to community initiatives. Overall with all the containers for change recycling that has gone through our drop point since commencement in November 2024 we have save 6.7M3 of landfill space. Container returns surged in August due to Box rallies and polocrosse events.

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 is going fantastically with Spring produce. During the recent Meekatharra School of the Air camp parents and children worked with Adam to learn about pruning asparagus and using a seed blocker. The group planted seeds in the blocks they made for transplanting in spring. These included tomatoes, cucumbers and eggplants.

New reticulation has now been run in the orchard with the main lines buried to ensure it can not be damaged in the future by vehicle movements and to keep key parts protected from environmental impacts to reduce maintenance. Tree purchases have begun including a low chill apple and pollinator and self self-pollinating almond with the remaining 21 trees to be procured in the coming week. We expect planting to be complete in early September.

### 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*

- ~ 12 emails in total
  - o 6 Road Condition Reports
  - o 2 Murchison Camp Oven Muster



- 4 Community Announcements
  - Close of Enrolments
  - Call for Nominations
  - HMJ Foulkes-Taylor Memorial Notice
  - Freight Delay

#### *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

#### 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

<b>Council Decision</b>		
<b>Moved: Cr</b>	<b>Seconded: Cr</b>	
<b>Carried/Lost</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>

### 17.3 SKA Project - Surrender of Kalli Station Pastoral Lease and Leasehold to CSIRO

File

Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer

Interest Declared: Nil

Date: 25 May 2025

Attachments: 17.3.1 DPLH CSIRO - Kalli Station Email Advice and Map

#### Matter for Consideration

Council comments relating to a Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) consideration of a proposal from the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) for leasehold tenure over the Kalli Pastoral Lease N049407.

#### DPLH Request

The Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (**DPLH**) is considering a proposal from the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (**CSIRO**) for leasehold tenure over Lot 17 on Deposited Plan 194335, being Kalli Pastoral Lease N049407 as attached.

The proposal will involve the surrender of Kalli Pastoral Lease N049407 by CSIRO and its amalgamation into Lease P377019 pursuant to section 87 of the *Land Administration Act 1997* (**LAA**) and is part of the Square Kilometre Array (**SKA**) Project.

Kalli Pastoral Lease N049407 is currently held by Ross Vince Ariti and Ailsa Lynette Ariti but DPLH is currently seeking approval from the Minister for Lands to transfer Kalli Pastoral Lease N049407 to CSIRO.

To allow for DPLH's further consideration of this proposal, it would be greatly appreciated if the Shire of Murchison could provide their comments by 29 September 2025 it will be assumed that the Shire of Murchison have no comments.

#### Comment

The SKA is a global, multi-generational \$2 billion scientific project to build the world's largest radio telescope located in Western Australia and South Africa. The SKA Project has been lead agency status by the Department of Energy and Economic Diversification under the Lead Agency Framework.

In 2022, DPLH issued Lease P377019, pursuant to section 86 of the LAA, for 60 years commencing on 5 November 2022 allowing for CSIRO to establish and operate the SKA Project. The expansion of the SKA onto the Kalli Pastoral Lease N049407 has always been envisaged in order to reach the targeted antenna installation and has been authorised under the Inyarrimanha Ilgari Bundara/Murchison Radio-Astronomy Observatory and Square Kilometre Array Indigenous Land Use Agreement (WI2022/008)

Whilst there will be some loss of rate revenue associated with the change CSIRO have separately been strong corporate and financial supporters of the Shire activities. Main potential issues that one would hope are to be addressed revolve around impacts on the environment and other pastoralists. Whilst CSIRO have had a positive attitude towards these aspects it would seem prudent that they be formally raised through comments to DPLH as requested

The recommendations below address some of these issues

#### Consultation

William Herold (Works Manager), Bec Fogarty (Community Development Manager)

## Recommendation

That in relation to the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) request for comment on a proposal from the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) for leasehold tenure over Lot 17 on Deposited Plan 194335, being Kalli Pastoral Lease N049407 that Council advise that it has no objections subject to the following requirements being incorporated into the lease

- 1 That boundary fences adjacent to roads and adjacent pastoral Stations be maintained in a condition that allows the adjacent pastoral stations to successfully contain their stock as part of the current good neighbour approach as part of the Murchison Community.
- 2 That CSIRO undertake appropriate initiatives to manage and control feral and declared species including wild dogs, camels and donkeys.
- 3 That all internal roads be constructed and maintained in accordance with Roads for Rehydration Principles which include but not limited to requirements to
  - ~ cater for variable rainfall frequencies and intensities events
  - ~ minimise water velocities
  - ~ minimise scouring not just to the road but also surrounding land
  - ~ minimise or prevent rain shadow effects on one side of the road through as far as practicable natural distribution of floodwaters
  - ~ minimise or prevent ponding adjacent to the road formation
  - ~ avoid the road becoming an effective channel for floodwaters
  - ~ avoid if at all possible, interfering with the natural water flow
- 4 That as a Commonwealth agency who are they are exempt from rates that they continue to work with and assist the Shire when requested regarding maintenance of the roads serving their holdings which are now proposed to be extended..

## Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

<b>Council Decision</b>		
<b>Moved: Cr</b>	<b>Seconded: Cr</b>	
<b>Carried/ Lost</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>

## 17.4 Murchison Regional Strategy Update

File:

Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer

Interest Declared: No interest to disclose

Date 24 August 2025

Attachments: Nil

### Matter for Consideration

Murchison Executive Group (MEG) Update of the Murchison Regional Strategy

### Background

At the November 2023 Council Meeting. Council endorsed the Murchison Regional Strategy 2023 – 2033 as prepared by (MEG) . This resulted from working with the Mid-West Development Commission (MWDC) and Regional Development Australia (RDA) which a comprehensive road map for the sustainable development and growth of the Murchison Region. The Strategy examines the regions evolution over the next decade and beyond, identifying economic, environmental, and social challenges. Aim of the Strategy is to provide strategic direction and focus for the participating Councils in the Murchison Region to work collaboratively with Local, State and Federal Government resources to achieve desired outcomes for the future of the Murchison Region.

### Update

#### *Murchison Region Visitor Economy Assessment*

Since this time various discussions have ensued at MEG has seen that in some ways coordinated implementation is difficult as unless one or more CEO's undertakes some work as there is no dedicated human resource available. Implementation of the strategy is as a result somewhat haphazard and lacking coordination.

This recognition has amongst other things led MEG to examine how the situation could be improved with Mark Holdsworth from RDA offering a funded pilot assistance program to look at one aspect of the strategy that MEG thought was worthwhile: namely a Murchison Region Visitor Economy Assessment. This review which would look at the range of tourism related actions that apply throughout the region noting tourism as one of three pivotal industries along with mining and pastoralism and which in some way or another are funded by each local government.

RDA at its cost engaged Karin Grima of Lyssna Consulting who operated with a brief as agreed by MEG independently of RDA. Karin conducted a wide-ranging listening research project with a variety of stakeholders including one on one and group discussions with each local government Community Development Officers leading to a proactive engagement. Along with the Cue and Yalgoo CEO's Murchison Shire was part of the Project Working Group.

The following points relating to future operational frameworks with resolutions were agreed to by MEG at the April Cue and July Mt Magnet Meetings and have or are in the process of being implemented by MEG.

- 1 Australia's Golden Outback (AGO) and Gascoyne Murchison Outback Pathways (GMOP)  
Continue to build and strengthen relationships with AGO and GMOP by fostering a collaborative partnership approach. Enhancing mutual understanding of each organisation's role and capabilities will ensure the Murchison Region effectively broader marketing efforts and maximises regional visibility.

*The MEG resolved to seek agreement from AGO and GMOP to provide an annual online workshop for CEOs and CDOs to provide understanding of campaigns and opportunities before sending out their yearly prospectuses.*

- 2 Community Development Officer (CDO) Tourism Network  
Community Development Officers across the Murchison have played a key role in shaping this report through their valuable feedback and insights. At a meeting held with CDOs from the Murchison and Upper

Gascoyne, a request was made to establish regular, tourism-focussed meetings led by Shire CDOs. These meetings would serve as a platform for sharing information, knowledge and expertise exchange, identifying and fostering collaborative opportunities.

*The MEG resolved to support Community Development Officers from the Murchison Shires to participate in a CDO Tourism Network currently led by the TCDO Upper Gascoyne.*

### 3 Murchison GeoRegion

Stakeholder feedback indicated a desire to have a clear understanding of the role and progress of MGR relative to the funding provided by the MEG since project inception. The refresh of the MGR Strategic Plan is due in 2025 presents an opportunity for an in-depth assessment by the Association for the next phase of MGR in line with their objectives and purpose, and in particular a renewed focus on Geopark/GeoRegion accreditation and all that it entails.

*That MEG resolve to request that the MGR Association provide clarification on:*

- ~ *The timeline for review and refresh of the MGR Strategic Plan 2021-2025*
- ~ *An indication of the planning for the 'next phase' of the MGR in line with objectives and purpose of the association*
- ~ *A forward budget and plan for funds contributed by MEG and currently held by the MGR*

#### ~ Murchison Regional Strategy - Tourism Action Plan

To deliver on initiatives identified in the Strategy and assist MEG decision making regarding tourism opportunities, the development of a one-page tourism action plan is recommended to identify the key tourism initiatives under the Strategy pillar(s), deliverables, stakeholders, and priority for delivery.

The one-page plan would also provide the framework for the development of a Regional and/or Local (Shire) Tourism Plans. The CDO Tourism Network could potentially provide working group oversight for the development of the action plan.

*That MEG develop a brief for the development of a One-Page Tourism Action Plan for the Murchison Regional Strategy.*

#### ~ Funding Requests for Regional Tourism Initiatives

To ensure consistency and transparency, it is recommended that all adhoc funding requests to MEG for region-wide tourism initiatives be accompanied by a project brief.

This brief should clearly outline the project scope, objectives, required funding, expected return on investment, matched contributions, reporting mechanisms back to MEG, and alignment with the Strategy and forthcoming tourism action plan.

It is not anticipated that this requirement would apply to AGO and GMOP as each organisation submits annual funding requests via a campaign prospectus and provide reports back to participating LGAs and the MEG.

*That MEG develop a project brief template for adhoc funding requests to MEG for region-wide tourism initiatives.*

#### ~ Tourism Education and Capacity Building

Formal learning opportunities, combined with participation in the CDO tourism network will play a key role in building staff capacity and capability across the region. It is recommended that the MEG allocate resources to support tourism-specific education and professional development for CDOs and Visitor Centre staff.

To promote consistency in service delivery and strengthen collaboration locally and across the region, it is also suggested that CRC staff involved in visitor information services be invited to participate on a user pays basis.

*MEG resolve to investigate opportunities for tourism-specific education and professional development for CDOs and Visitor Centre staff to be presented to MEG at, or prior to the November meeting.*

~ Australian Regional Tourism – Social Impact Framework

Australian Regional Tourism (ART) is the peak body representing regional tourism practitioners, and functioning as a hub for collaboration, cooperation, ideas generation, knowledge sharing, networking and more. ART will work with a region to develop a social impact framework to assist with assessing how tourism is contributing to local wellbeing and community engagement.

*That MEG invite Lauren Douglas, CEO of ART to provide a presentation on the ART social impact framework approach and how the development of such a framework may benefit the Murchison Region.*

~ Australian Regional Tourism – Courses

ART have a training program for remote Local Governments specifically aimed at staff who are new to tourism. The 12-module online course is delivered at a low cost (from \$375) and designed to be completed within a participant's available time.

*MEG resolve to commit funds for CDOs and Visitor Information Centre staff to participate in the ART Professional Development Program*

*Murchison Regional Strategy Coordination Program*

In part as a result of the successful implementation of the above pilot program, at the July MEG meeting an offer from RDA was considered whereby a resource could be made available on as joint basis to fund a regional Coordination Program for the Murchison Region to assist MEG in continuing to advance the development of the Murchison Regional Strategy.

Much like the previous project, as outlined arrangements would be that the actual projects would be set by MEG to undertake actions including

- ~ Strategic Coordination: - Establishing a framework to identify regional priorities and drive initiatives.
- ~ Project management: Converting priorities into tangible, result-driven actions that enhance regional growth.
- ~ Financial oversight: Ensuring accountability and transparency in the allocation and management of resources.
- ~ Priority selection: Identify and select initiatives for focused execution each year.
- ~ Action Plan Development: Identifying key issues and opportunities.
- ~ Reporting: Agreed timing and format for project status updates

Direct RDA involvement minimal except for reporting and acquittal purposes. At the meeting it was agreed that MEG recommend to their individual Councils to fund a regional such a program for the next two (2) years. Feedback from most of the local government involved since the meeting indicated a high take up in the offer was likely meaning that the budget allowance included in the 2025/26 budget will be sufficient.

**Recommendation**

That the Chief Executive Officer's Murchison Regional Strategy Update Report be noted.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

<b>Council Decision</b>		
<b>Moved: Cr</b>	<b>Seconded: Cr</b>	
<b>Carried/ Lost</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>

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## 18 ADMINISTRATION

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### 18.1 Rating Miscellaneous Mining Licenses

File:	3.1
Author:	Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer
Interest Declared:	No interest to disclose
Date	24 August 2025
Attachments:	18.1.1 Minister for Local Government 2 August 2025 Press Release Regarding Rating Miscellaneous Mining Licenses 18.1.2 WALGA Press Release Regarding Rating Miscellaneous Mining Licenses 18.1.3 Murchison Rating Miscellaneous Mining Licenses Briefing Paper

#### Matter for Consideration

Minister for Local Government 2 August 2025 Press Release regarding Rating Miscellaneous Mining Licenses and Council's response

#### Comments

On 2 August 2025 the Minister of Local Government, as outlined in the attached press release, announced that it will move swiftly to amend the Local Government Act by clarifying that land held under a miscellaneous mining licence be exempt from local government rates.

By way of an update on previous advice to Council a briefing paper relating to the proposed action by the Minister is attached.

As outlined and in summary, this is an extraordinary step proposed to be undertaken by the Minister which is fundamentally flawed on any objective consideration summarised as follows.

- 1 Minister attempting to equate so called *"understandings and precedents"* with respect to current legislation to override judicial review claiming reverting to the status quo when the situation as affirmed remains clear.  
The maxim, *"two wrongs don't make a right"* is highly relevant. In this instance the Minister is promoting a *"wrong, to wrong a right."*
- 2 Claims that the muted changes will protect jobs in Regional WA are a complete *"furphy"*. Any additional revenue delivered into the region to local government will directly lead to local job creation as local government will be able to provide additional services at a local level that would otherwise not be able to be delivered. Not being able to lawfully access this revenue will have the opposite effect.
- 3 By putting one specific industry, and in this case one segment of that industry over another shows a complete bias and suggested that *"competitiveness"* trumps every other consideration.  
Even if the government sees *"Maintaining the competitiveness of Western Australia's world-leading mining sector is critical to the State"* then it has plenty of other mechanisms that it can use such as reductions in mining royalties that providing specific grants to bring this about and thereby distribute the equitably across the State, rather than land it on the smallest and less financially stricken parts of the community. One wonders what other equally important industries will say and perhaps demand similar preferential treatment.
- 4 Indicating that the government will *"engage with the resources sector on how it contributes to local communities and work with local governments"* completely misses the point with respect to voluntary contributions versus rates liabilities. The two are independent of each other. Community contributions whilst welcome are voluntary, whilst rates are a property tax where equity and fairness considerations as outlined under the local Government Act are to be followed.
- 5 Constitutionally, Local Government does not exist. It is the State Government that is responsible for delivery of services to its citizens. This is done operationally through a range of government departments and established statutory authorities. In the case of Local Government, the State Government has effectively delegated work that it is required to undertake to each local Council and in a manner work that the State cannot do directly themselves. Whilst the services provided and funded by a local government are delivered locally through local decision making, the actual standard of services offered and people who benefit will vary from those living and residing within the district to

those that do not. The Minister's proposal ignores this essential aspect and the important revenue resource derived on an equitable basis that rating delivers to providing services to all of WA not just those within individual local governments.

- 6 As it stands, the Government determines the annual rent to be applied for mining tenements, which determines the valuations and thereby significantly influences individual rating outcomes. In Murchison for 2025-26 the total rent collected by the State Government for Mining Leases, General Purpose Leases, Miscellaneous Licences (MML) including groundwater within the Murchison Shire totaling \$697,800 which is in excess of rates levied by the Shire. The idiom "*what's good for the goose is good for the gander*" couldn't be more apt.
- 7 The decision to fundamentally trashes a number of Labor Party Policies and Values as it, is hardly founded on pillars of fairness, justice, and compassion for all, does not treat people equally in their entitlement though equal opportunity, accentuates unfair discrimination through advantaging one segment of society over another and redistributes resources and power rights and opportunities away from the local communities that it is claimed to ought to be not advantaged.

It appears to be a situation of the government pandering to the Mining Industry to the detriment of local communities, regardless of any legal appeal process that is still to be undertaken. Whilst it is recognised that the rating system could be significantly improved this action is ill considered.

Mt Magnet Shire are a primary focus of local government action in this matter as it is their successful appeal to the Supreme Court that has prompted the Minister to act; but all local Governments are affected in some way or another. As outlined in the attached WALGA Press Release, WALGA has rightly condemned the Minister's action with various supportive motions and actions being presented to State Council for adoption.

Mt Magnet Shire, like Murchison Shire as a very small local government who been thrust into the limelight through questioning the logic and validity of legislation. Whilst Mt Magnet have primacy in articulating their case, effectively on behalf of the sector, they need to be continued to supported. In our instance though it is also considered appropriate that we as a Shire we also separately articulate our views and not just rely on WALGA and others.

The recommendations below provide the basis for this approach.

That in relation to Rating of Miscellaneous Mining Licences Council resolve as follows

- 1 That the Chief Executive Officer's Rating Miscellaneous Mining Licences Report be noted.
- 2 That Council continues to support Mt Magnet Shire in its endeavours to articulate and defend the continued application of the current legislation
- 3 That Council separately also articulate its own views to relevant decision makers.

#### Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

#### **Council Decision**

**Moved: Cr**

**Seconded: Cr**

**Carried/Lost**

**For**

**Against**



## 18.2 ICPA Sponsorship Request

File

Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer

Interest Declared: Nil

Date 24 August 2025

Attachments: 18.2.1 ICPA Sponsorship Request & Sponsorship Options

### Matter for Consideration

Request from the Isolated Children's Parents Association (ICPA) for Council to Sponsor their Annual Conference to be held in Perth on Friday 27 March, 2026.

### Background

Copy of letter of request from the ICPA with the following sponsorship package details are attached. Valued Member (\$500), Bronze (\$750), Silver (\$1,500), Gold (\$2,500) and Platinum (\$5,000)

Council has from time to time traditionally sponsored the conference and with the last allocations undertaken in 2022/23 for \$500 (Conference) as \$2,900 (Scitech)

### Policy Implications

Policy 4.2 Donations and Grants

### Financial Implications

Amount to be determined by Council.

### **Recommendation**

That Council agree to sponsor the Children's Parents Association (ICPA) Annual Conference to be held in Perth on Friday the 27 March 2026 for an amount of *(to be determined by Council)*

### Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

<b>Council Decision</b>		
<b>Moved: Cr</b>	<b>Seconded: Cr</b>	
<b>Carried/ Lost</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>

### **18.3 Local Government Elections Update**

File

Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer

Interest Declared: Nil

Date 24 August 2025

Attachments: 18.3.1 Shire of Murchison - Call for Nominations - Notice

#### Matter for Consideration

Murchison Local Government Elections Update

#### Update

As part of their engagement, the West Australian Electoral Commission have called for nominations for the October 2026 Local Government Elections as attached. Nominations Open on Thursday, 28 August 2025 and Close at 4:00pm Thursday, 4 September 2025.

#### **For Information**

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## 19 FINANCE

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### 19.1 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: 24 August 2025  
Attachments: 19.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for July 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 19.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for July 2023 be discussed behind closed doors
- 2 That Council receive and note attachment 19.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for July 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	Seconded: Cr	
Carried/Lost	For	Against

*The meeting was moved to behind closed doors at*

### 3 Motion to open the meeting to the public

<b>Council Decision</b>		
<b>Moved: Cr</b>	<b>Seconded: Cr</b>	
<b>Carried/Lost</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>

*The meeting was moved out of closed doors at*

### 2 Decisions Disclosed from the Closed Section of Meeting associated with Attachment Item 19.1

<b>Council Decision</b>		
<b>Moved: Cr</b>	<b>Seconded: Cr</b>	
<b>Carried/Lost</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>

## 19.2 Financial Activity Statements 31 July 2025

File: 2.6  
Author: Travis Bate (RSM) – Financial Accountant  
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose  
Date: 24 August 2025  
Attachments: Nil as per comment below

*Note this Item will be held over till the next month as significant resources have been applied to end of year reconciliation and budget finalisation with comparisons to the 2025-26 Budget not possible until it has been adopted. The July Report when submitted to Council will then include adopted budget figures.*

### 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 that the financial statements as presented for the period ending 31 July 2025 will be presented to the September Meeting.

### Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

### **Council Decision**

**Moved: Cr**

**Seconded: Cr**

**Carried/Lost**

**For**

**Against**

### 19.3 Asset Management Plan

File: 2.4  
Author: Bill Boehm - Chief Executive Officer  
Interest Declared: Nil  
Date: 24 August 2025  
Attachments: 19.3.1 Asset Management Plan

#### Matter for Consideration

Review of the Shire's Asset Management Plan as part of Council's Planning for the Future.

#### Background

Pursuant to s 5.56 of the Local Government Act 1995 a local government is required to plan for the future its district through the preparation and adoption of various plans in accordance with Division 3 of the Local Government (*Administration*) Regulations 1996. As shown below this involves various elements with progress highlighted as follows.

Reg	Plan	Latest Update	Progress
19C	<b>Strategic Community Plan</b>  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	<b>Corporate Business Plan</b>  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. Covers a period at least 4 years and to be reviewed annually. Governs internal business planning by expressing priorities by reference to operations that are within Council's capacity. Develops and integrate matters relating to resources including.	22 August 2024	Agenda Item 17.1
	Asset Management Plan	22 August 2024	This Agenda Item. To be updated for inclusion into the Long-Term Financial Plan and 2025/26 Budget.
	Workforce Planning as part of the Murchison Shire Organisational Rationale Recruitment Strategy)	22 May 2025	To be reviewed later
	Long-Term Financial Planning	22 August 2024	Year 1 to underpin the 2025/26 Budget.

Since 2017 work has continued to develop the scope of works and in delivering a range of Capital Works identified in the then Corporate Business Plan. However various significant changes had occurred since prompting a wider review. At the August 2023 Meeting revised Asset Management and Long-Term Financial Plans were updated and will be updated annually as part of the 2025/26 Budget consideration.

Consultation

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

Update

This work has now been completed as per the attachment and the contents included in the Long-Term Financial and 2025/26 Budget.

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

**Recommendation**

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

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

<b>Council Decision</b>		
<b>Moved: Cr</b>	<b>Seconded: Cr</b>	
<b>Carried/Lost</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>

## 19.4 Long-Term Financial Plan

File: 2.4  
Author: Bill Boehm - Chief Executive Officer  
Interest Declared: Nil  
Date: 24 August 2025  
Attachments: 19.4.1 Long-Term Financial Plan

### Matter for Consideration

Review of the Shire's Long-Term Financial Plan as part of Council's Planning for the Future.

### Background

Pursuant to s 5.56 of the Local Government Act 1995 a local government is required to plan for the future its district through the preparation and adoption of various plans in accordance with Division 3 of the Local Government (*Administration*) Regulations 1996. As shown below this involves various elements with progress highlighted as follows.

Reg	Plan	Latest Update	Progress
19C	<b>Strategic Community Plan</b>  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	<b>Corporate Business Plan</b>  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. Covers a period at least 4 years and to be reviewed annually. Develops and integrate matters relating to resources including.  Asset Management  Workforce Planning as part of the Murchison Shire Organisational Rationale Recruitment Strategy)	22 August 2024        22 August 2024  22 May 2025	Agenda Item 17.1        To be updated for inclusion into the Long-Term Financial Plan and 2024/25 Budget.
	Long-Term Financial Planning	22 August 2024	This Agenda Item. Year 1 to underpin the 2025/26 Budget.

Since 2017 work has continued to develop the scope of works and in delivering a range of Capital Works identified in the then Corporate Business Plan. However various significant changes had occurred since prompting a wider review. At the August 2023 Meeting revised Asset Management and Long-Term Financial Plans were updated and will be updated annually as part of the 2025/26 Budget consideration.



Consultation

Travis Bate (RSM) – Financial Accountant

Update

This work has now been completed as per the attachment and the 2025/26 Budget.

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

**Recommendation**

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

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

<b>Council Decision</b>		
<b>Moved: Cr</b>	<b>Seconded: Cr</b>	
<b>Carried/Lost</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>

## 19.5 2025-2026 Budget Adoption

File: 2.4  
Author: Bill Boehm - Chief Executive Officer  
Interest Declared: Nil  
Date: 24 August 2025  
Attachments: 19.5.1 Murchison Shire 2025-26 Annual Budget  
19.5.2 Murchison Shire 2025-26 Budget Snapshot  
19.5.3 Fees and Charges 2025-26

### Matter for Consideration

Council is to consider the Draft Budget for the 2025-26 Financial Year and the Fees & Charges Table for 2025-26 period.

### Background

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

The 2025-2026 draft budget has been developed amongst other things in consideration of the following:

- ~ Strategic Community Plan 2016/17 - 2026/27
- ~ Corporate Business Plan 2026-2029 as per Agenda Item 17.1
- ~ Asset Management Plan 2026-2047 as per Agenda Item 19.3
- ~ Long Term Financial Plan 2026-2047 as per Agenda Item 19.4
- ~ Councilor workshop held on 24 July 2025.

### COVID-19 Coronavirus General Influences

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

- 1 *In responding to the COVID-19 Coronavirus that Council act in accordance with the following principles and rationale associated with health and economic activity:*
  - (a) *Our overriding responsibility is to act to protect our citizens and community to prevent, control or abate the serious public health risk presented by COVID-19 by limiting the spread of COVID-19.*
  - (b) *Council will act to ensure that we can function and deliver the required works and services to support and stimulate the local economy.*
- 3 *That Council look to expanding its works program by bringing forward projects that can stimulate the local economy and provide lasting benefits for the community.*

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

### 2025/26 Budget Summary

Prior to finalising the 2025/26 Council Budget significant bodies of work have been undertaken to continue to consolidate the 2023/24 major updates of our Asset Management Plan, Long Tern Financial Plan and Corporate Business Plan and Rating Strategy Reviews and considered by Council previously and during the year at previous meetings as well at various Councillor Budget Workshops.

Whilst Budgets are set and delivered on an annual basis, in reality, works and services are delivered on a continuous basis with the financial year merely a point in time. The 2025/26 Budget follows this “*Structure follows Strategy Approach*” with the 2025/26 Budget effectively implementing year one of the Long-Term Financial Plan. Supporting budget information also includes a 4-year indicative Corporate Plan Budget which is an extract of the Long-Term Financial Plan but in an expanded form. The Budget Reserves Net Current Assets Summary Graph included in these documents highlights these approaches.

As previously foreshadowed at the July 2025 Councillor Workshop a small number of changes have been identified associated with end of year adjustments and updating budget estimates associated with budgeted items previously identified. Final documents incorporate these changes. It is also considered prudent that all supporting budget documents be formally endorsed by Council given the strategic importance of the 2025/26 Budget to Councils overall strategy.

#### 2025/26 Budget Snapshot

The attached 2025/26 Budget Snapshot is a two-page simple summary of Council's 2025/26 Budget. It is intended that this will accompany the Rates Notices when they are sent out.

#### Accrual of Interest on Overdue Rates or Service Charges

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

The maximum prescribed rate of interest on unpaid rates per *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulation 70* is 11%. 11% is proposed for 2025/26.

Year	Maximum Permitted Interest Rate % per annum	Council Interest Rate % per annum
2025/26	11.00%	11.00%
2024/25	11.00%	10.00%
2023/24	11.00%	7.00%
2022/23	8.17%	7.00%

#### Local Government (COVID-19 Response) Order 2020

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

#### Differential General Rates – s6.33

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

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

At the May Council Meeting Council resolved as follows:

- 1 That the Chief Executive Officers 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.

All of the above actions were undertaken.

At the June Council Meeting the Chief Executive Officer advised that no submissions had been received. Council then resolved as follows

- 1 That the Chief Executive Officers 2025-26 Rates Review Update Report be noted.
- 2 That Council continues with its a policy position forming part of the 2025-26 Rates Review and for future rates scenarios that as far as practicable aspects associated with natural growth or decline are ignored when setting rates.

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

In previous years also, under consideration was rating of Mining Properties under a Miscellaneous Mining Licences. Since this time the legal liability associated with rating Miscellaneous Mining Licence has been now confirmed through as successful Supreme Court appeal by the Shire of Mt Magnet. Future appeals or legislative change may or may not change the situation with the budget prepared on the basis that such revenue will be placed into the Shire's Asset Management Reserve for later use.

#### Elected Members Fees and Allowances for 2025/26

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

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

#### **Salary & Allowance Tribunal Fees & Allowances**

Item	2024		2025		2026	
	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max
Annual Attendance Fees Council Member	\$3,735	\$9,890	\$3,884	\$10,286	\$4,020	\$10,650
Annual Attendance Fees President	\$3,735	\$20,325	\$3,884	\$21,138	\$4,020	\$21,880
Annual Allowance for President	\$535	\$20,875	\$556	\$21,710	\$575	\$22,470
Annual Allowance for Dep President (25% of President)	\$133	\$5,218	\$139	\$5,428	\$144	\$5,618
Information & Communication Technology (ICT)	\$500	\$3,500	\$500	\$3,500	\$500	\$3,500

It is for Council to determine Member fees and allowances so long as they set are within the allowable limits. Historically Member Annual Attendance Fees have been set at the maximum. Maintaining this arrangement seems reasonable. Recommended fees and allowances including past years comparisons are outlined in the following table have been included in the recommendation.

#### **Elected Members Fees & Allowances**

Item	2024	2025	2026
<b>Murchison Shire</b>	<b>Previous</b>	<b>Previous</b>	<b>Proposed</b>
Annual Attendance Fees Council Member	\$9,890	\$10,286	\$10,650
Annual Attendance Fees President	\$14,835	\$15,429	\$16,200
Annual Allowance for President	\$16,032	\$18,032	\$18,934
Annual Allowance for Dep President (25% of President)	\$4,008	\$4,508	\$4,733
Information & Communication Technology (ICT)	\$2,215	\$2,400	\$2,520

## Fees and Charges

All of the fees and charges which applied in 2024/25 have been reviewed considering the cost to Council and by comparing the proposed Fee or Charge to that charged by alternative suppliers in a similar situation. In the main, fees have remained at current levels but in some situations have been rationalised or modernised to reflect a more contemporary practice.

The attached schedule 19.5.3 shows previous years fees and what are proposed for 2025/26.

## Statutory Environment:

### *Budget Adoption*

#### Local Government Act 1995

Section 6.2 of the Local Government Act 1995.

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

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

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

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

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

### *Elected Member Fees & Allowances*

Sections 5.98 to Section 5.99A Local Government Act 1995

Section 7A Salaries & Allowance Act 1975

## Strategic Implications

As outlined above the Budget has been adapted to the with the view to achieving the community's vision and Shire's strategic goals use outlined by the Shire's Strategic Community Plan 2016/17 -2026/27, Corporate Business Plan 2026-2029, Asset Management Plan 2026-2047, and Long-Term Financial Plan 2026-2047 which together form the Shire Plan for Future.

## Sustainability Implications

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

## Policy Implications

Nil

## Financial Implications

The 2025-26 budget will guide the activities of the Shire for the financial year, but also in context for future years.

## Consultation

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

## **Recommendation**

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

### **Part A- Budget Considerations**

- A1 That Council receives the 2025-2026 Budget Adoption Report including the Asset Management Plan, Long Term Financial Plan and Corporate Business Plan and previous Rating Strategy Reviews which underpin the 2025/26 Budget.

#### Voting Requirements

- A1 Simple Majority

### **Part B – General Fees and Charges For 2025-26**

- B1 That Council, pursuant to section 6.16 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, adopts the fees and charges for the 2025/26 year as attachment 18.5.3 to this agenda.

#### Voting Requirements

- B1 Absolute Majority

### **Part C – Other Statutory Fees for 2025-26**

- C1 That Council, pursuant to section 53 of the *Cemeteries Act 1986* adopts the Fees and Charges for Cemeteries within the Shire of Murchison as included in the draft 2025/26 Fees and Charges as attached to this agenda.

#### Voting Requirements

- C1 Absolute Majority

### **Part D – Elected Members Fees and Allowances for 2025/26**

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

President \$16,200 per annum

Councillors \$10,650 per annum.

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

ICT Expenses Allowance \$2,520

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

President \$18,934

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

Deputy President \$4,733

#### Voting Requirements

- D1, D2, D3, D4 Absolute Majority

### **Part E- Municipal Fund Budget for 2025-26**

- E1 That Council, pursuant to the provisions of section 6.2 of the *Local Government Act 1995* and Part 3 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*, adopt the Municipal Fund Budget as contained in the Statutory Annual Budget attachment to this agenda for the Shire of Murchison for the 2025/26 financial year, including the following:

- E1.1 2025/26 Budget Summary
- E1.2 2025/26 Statutory Budget Documents including budget schedules for Budget Accounts and Capital Works
- E2 That Council endorses the 2025/26 Budget Snapshot as attached.
- E3 That in adopting the 2025/26 Budget that Council specifically notes that,
  - E3.1 the revenue estimated to be yielded by the general rates imposed for the 2025/26 financial year will be no less than 90% and no more than 110% of the 2025/26 Budget deficiency.

#### Voting Requirements

- E1 Absolute Majority
- E2, E3 Simple Majority

### **Part F – Interest on Money Owing to Local Governments**

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

#### Voting Requirements

- F1 Absolute Majority

### **Part G – Differential and Minimum Rates Instalment Payment Arrangements**

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

Differential Rate Type	Rate in dollar cents	Minimum Payment (\$)
UV Pastoral	9.932	1,000
UV Mining	19.830	1,000
UV Exploration	19.830	1.000

- G2 That Council notes that in accordance with section 6.32(1)(a)(ii), 6.32(1)(b)(ii), 6.33(3) and 6.35 of the *Local Government Act 1995* that the differential rates are not greater than more than twice the lowest differential rate that such differentials are not subject to the approval of the Minister for Local Government.
- G3 That Council, pursuant to section 6.45 of the *Local Government Act 1995* and regulation 64(2) of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*, offers a one and a four-instalment payment option, and nominates the following due dates for payment in full or by instalments:

Payment	Due Date
Full payment and 1 <sup>st</sup> instalment	10 October 2025
2 <sup>nd</sup> quarterly instalment	12 December 2025
3 <sup>rd</sup> quarterly instalment	13 February 2026
4 <sup>th</sup> quarterly and final instalment	17 April 2026

- G4 That Council, pursuant to section 6.45 of the *Local Government Act 1995* and regulation 67 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*, adopts an instalment administration charge where the owner has elected to pay rates (and service charges) through an instalment option of \$15.00 and is to be set for each instalment after the initial instalment is paid.
- G5 That Council, pursuant to section 6.45 of the *Local Government Act 1995* and regulation 68 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*, adopts an interest rate of 0.0% where the owner has elected to pay rates and service charges through an instalment option.
- G6 That, pursuant to section 6.51(1) and subject to section 6.51(4) of the *Local Government Act 1995* and Regulation 70 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*, that Council adopts

an interest rate of 11% for rates and costs of proceedings to recover such charges that remain unpaid after becoming due and payable.

Voting Requirements

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

**Part H – Material Variance Reporting for 2025/26**

H1     That Council, in accordance with regulation 34(5) of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*, and *AASB 1031 Materiality*, the level to be used in statements of financial activity in 2025/26 for reporting material variances shall be a percentage of ten (10%) or a minimum of \$10,000.

Voting Requirements

H1     Simple Majority

Overall Voting Requirements

As outlined under each Part.

<b>Council Decision</b>		
<b>Moved: Cr</b>	<b>Seconded: Cr</b>	
<b>Carried/Lost</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>



## 20 CEO ACTIVITY REPORT

File:

Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer

Interest Declared: No interest to disclose

Date 25 August 2025

Attachments: Nil

### General

The following update of activities is provided.

Date	Activity
22.07.2025	Draft Budget Work. Rates follow up
23.07.2025	Draft Budget Work. Rates follow up. Touch base on phone with Chris Brayton CSIRO
24.07.2025	Council Meeting & Workshop. TOIL
25.07.2025 to 27.07.2025	Council Minutes. Draft Budget Work. Attend to Emails. TOIL. Travel to Fremantle
28.07.2025	TOIL. Travel Perth to Mt Magnet. MEG Meeting
29.07.2025	Travel Mt Magnet to Murchison
30.07.2025	Budget Work. Catch up with Works Manager & Community Manager. Rates Response Briefing Work
31.07.2025	Budget Work. Catch up with Works Manager & Community Manager. Works Crew MCOM Briefing . Rates Response Briefing Work
1.08.2025	Budget Road Asset Work. Catch up with Works Manager & Community Manager. Works Crew MCOM Work
2.08.2025	Budget Road Asset Work. MCOM Festival
4.08.2025	Budget Road Asset Work. Miscellaneous Mining License Work. Building Inspections with Community Manager
5.08.2025	Budget Road Asset Work. Miscellaneous Mining License Work. Fuel Work
6.08.2025	Budget Road Asset Work. Miscellaneous Mining License Work. Fuel Work. Roadhouse Manager Meetings with Community Manager
7.08.2025	Budget Road Asset Work. Miscellaneous Mining License Work. Meetings with Works Manager & Community Manager
8.08.2025	Budget Road Asset Work. Miscellaneous Mining License Work. Fuel Review. Telephone discussion with Ian Duncan   Executive Manager, Infrastructure   WALGA
9.08.2025 to 10.08.2025	Miscellaneous Mining License Work.
11.08.2025	Miscellaneous Mining License Work. Settlement site inspection. MRWA Regional Road Group Submission. General Administration.
12.08.2025	Miscellaneous Mining License Work. Fuel Review. Separate Teams Meetings Fox Modular & ACIL Allen with Community Manager. Timesheet Review. General Administration
13.08.2025	Miscellaneous Mining License Work. MEG Working Group Briefing with Karin Krima. Site inspections Roadhouse Caravan Park with Community Manager. Works allocation review. General Administration
14.08.2025	TOIL. Travel to Fremantle.
15.08.2025	TOIL. Attend HMJ Foulkes-Taylor Memorial Service
16.08.2025	Crosslands Sinosteel MML Rates Response. Roadhouse Staff Accommodation Work. General Administration / Emails
17.08.2025	Council Agenda Work. General Administration / Emails
18.08.2025	Council Agenda Work. General Administration / Emails. Catch up briefing with Community Manager. TOIL. Touch base with Shire President via phone
19.08.2025	Council Agenda Work. General Administration / Emails. TOIL
20.08.2025	Council Agenda Work. General Administration / Emails. Fox Modular building inspections with Community Manager .TOIL
21.08.2025	Council Agenda Work. General Administration / Emails. Telephone catch up with Emma. TOIL
22.08.2025	Council Agenda Work. General Administration / Emails. .TOIL
24.08.2025 to 25.08.2025	Council Agenda & Workshop Work

**Recommendation**

That Council note the CEO's Activity Report.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

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

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**21 OTHER ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED BEHIND CLOSED DOORS**

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Nil

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**22 MEETING CLOSURE**

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*The Shire President closed the meeting at.*