



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 Friday **26 September 2025**, commencing at 12 Noon.

Ancient land under brilliant skies

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ATTACHMENTS

1 DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

Shire President declared the meeting open at 12.02pm

2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Present

Councillors

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

Staff

Bill Boehm – CEO
William Herold – Works Manager
Bec Fogarty – Community Officer

Apologies

Travis Bate (RSM) – Financial Accountant

Apologies

Cr A Whitmarsh

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

3.1 Ordinary Council Meeting – 28 August 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 28 August 2025 be confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings.

Voting Requirements:

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr M Fowler

Seconded: Cr G Mead

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 28 August 2025 be confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings.

Carried

For

5

Against

0

4 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Item 18.2 Cr R Foulkes-Taylor, Cr E Foulkes-Taylor, Cr G Mead and Cr Q Fowler Impartiality Interest

5 RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE

Nil

6 STANDING ORDERS

Matter for Consideration

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

Recommendation

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

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

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr G Mead

Seconded: Cr E Foulkes-Taylor

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

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

Carried

For

5

Against

0

7 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Nil

8 NEXT MEETING

Thursday 23 October 2025 at 12.00noon

9 APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

10 URGENT BUSINESS

11 NOTICE OF ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

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

12 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY PRESIDING PERSON WITHOUT DISCUSSION

Nil

13 PETITIONS/DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS/SUBMISSIONS

Nil

14 ANNOUNCEMENTS CONCERNING MEETINGS ATTENDED

14.1 Shire President

The Shire President thanked Council for the opportunity to attend and represent Council at the WALGA Local Government Convention from 22 – 24 September 2025 and appreciated Council for covering the costs of attendance. Few points of note

- ~ Met with representatives of the Shires of Mt Magnet, Cue and Perenjori
- ~ Met with Minister Hanna Beazley's Ministerial Advisor
- ~ Participated in the WALGA AGM and spoke in support of and against a couple of motions including seconding Mt Magnet's motion in relation to the rating of miscellaneous ming licences and opposing a motion to increase the percentage of councillors who could attend an ordinary council meeting remotely electronically.

14.2 Councillors

Cr E Foulkes-Taylor

Cr E Foulkes-Taylor thanked Council for the opportunity to attend and represent Council at the WALGA Local Government Convention and appreciated Council for covering the costs of attendance. Few points of note

- ~ Good examples of local Governments sharing resources. Eg City of South Perth provides planning services to the Shire of Derby West Kimberley. Win-Win for both with shared experiences for staff
- ~ Economic Development Forum showcased an example of the Shire of Murray having been frustrated in having an important hotel in their community upgraded to serve their community, deciding to purchase the establishment, upgrade and operate it with a likely sell off at a later date. This resulted in significant community benefits and job creation.

Cr G Mead

Cr G Mead thanked Council for the opportunity to attend the WALGA Local Government Convention and appreciated Council for covering the costs of attendance. Few points of note

- ~ Good keynotes and economic development sessions

15 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

15.1 Audit Committee

File: 2.2
Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 21 September 2025
Attachments: 15.1.1 Audit Committee Meeting Recommendations

Matter for Consideration

Amongst other things one of the objectives of the Audit Committee under sec 17(3) of the *Local Government (Audit) Regulations 1996* is to review Chief Executive Officers Review of the appropriateness and effectiveness of a local government's systems and procedures in relation to risk management, internal control and legislative compliance.

A copy of the Audit Committee Meeting Agenda and Attachments for the meeting on 26 September 2025 as separately circulated to all councillors.

Committee Recommendations

To be provided to Council following deliberations of the Audit Committee Meeting

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Committee Decision

Moved: Cr R Foulkes-Taylor

Seconded: Cr Q Fowler

That the Audit Committee, considers and notes the Chief Executive Officer's Audit Regulation Section 17(3) Review Report of the Councils local government systems, and reports to the 26 September 2025 Ordinary Meeting of Council recommending that Council receive and note the Committees review.

Carried

For 2

Against 0

Council Decision

Moved: Cr Q Fowler

Seconded: Cr G Mead

That Council note and adopt the Audit Committee's Review of the Chief Executive Officer's Audit Regulation Section 17(3) Review Report

Carried

For 5

Against 0

16 WORKS

16.1 Works Report

File: 12.42
Author: William Herold – Works Manager
Bill Boehm - Chief Executive Officer **
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 21 September 2025
Attachments: Nil

Construction

The Construction crew continue to progress with pavement preparation including rectifying levels and cross falls in floodways as they go. Fortunately, I can report no new major mechanical issues on their gear which has aided progress. By the time Council meets they would also have done a day of fire training. (24.09.2025)

Maintenance

The maintenance crew continued up the Beringarra-Pindar Rd. until September 9, then moved over to the north end of the Carnarvon-Mullewa Rd. The John Deere 670 grader has unfortunately suffered a major transmission failure and has been taken to the agents in Geraldton. Only having one grader has slowed things up considerably. Hopefully by the time Council meets I will have a better idea as to damage and cost.

Flood Damage

The AGRN 1175 works are nearing completion on schedule, once again my thanks to CEO Bill for persevering with DFES to enable us to get these works done. On completion THEM Earthmoving and the new Greenfield supervisor, Paul, will return to the normal flood damage repairs. My thanks to Caleb Bryer from Greenfield for supervising these works and buying into how the Murchison Shire would like the works to be done. I will certainly miss his enthusiasm and drive and hope to have him back in the future.

Parks and Gardens

It has been decided that Bec will take over the day-to-day management and organisation of the Parks and Gardens as I am spending more time out of the Settlement on roads. I will still be available to assist in any way, if I am needed. I am sure it will improve efficiency. The Parks and Gardens crew will also undergo fire training with the crews.

SKA Route Works

Squires Resources are continuing with a fairly heavy maintenance regime on the Boolardy side of the job. The airstrip upgrade at Boolardy has increased traffic from Boolardy homestead to north of the Boolardy Kalli Rd. intersection considerably.

Walladar continue with upgrade works on the CGG section as well as some maintenance. An old grid has been removed and replaced with culverts. Overall, there is a marked improvement to the condition of this 28 km section of road.

The CEO has also advised that an advance claim has been submitted, process of which is proving beneficial as well as end of year works and Aboriginal content reconciliations being completed.

MRWA Projects **

2025/26 Projects Update

At this stage it looks like that the Shire's submission for additional funding for widening, reconstructing and sealing a 1.38km section on the Carnarvon-Mullewa Rd will be accepted. Total Project Cost \$180.083 with \$120,055 funding on a 2:1 basis. This maxed out our cap per local government. To avoid an overlap with 2026-27 projects, SLK 179.26- 180.55 has been submitted which is a bit north of the current section of works

2026/27 Projects

Five projects for widening, reconstructing and sealing 10.94km sections on the Carnarvon-Mullewa Rd has been submitted and look like being accepted. Total Project Cost \$2,250,000 with \$1,500,000 funding on a 2:1 basis. Majority of works will be north of the current works heading towards the Murchison Settlement with one small section near New Forest- Yallalong Road. At this stage the regions program allocation looks like being undersubscribed. We have therefore foreshadowed that we could expand out works to assist in ensuring that the allocation will be spent.

Recommendation

That the Works Report be noted

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision				
Moved: Cr	M Fowler	Seconded: Cr	Q Fowler	
That the Works Report be noted				
Carried		For	5	Against 0

17 FINANCE

17.1 Accounts Paid since the last list was presented to Council

File: 4.37.1
Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 21 September 2025
Attachments: 17.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for August 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 August 2025 be discussed behind closed doors
- 2 That Council receive and note attachment 17.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for August 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 G Mead

Seconded: Cr Q Fowler

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

Carried

For

5

Against

0

The meeting was moved to behind closed doors at 12.17pm

3 Motion to open the meeting to the public

Council Decision

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

That the Meeting moved out from behind closed doors

Carried	For	5	Against	0
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The meeting was moved out of closed doors at 12.20pm

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

Council Decision

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

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

Carried	For	5	Against	0
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17.2 Financial Activity Statements 31 July 2025

File: 2.6
Author: Travis Bate (RSM) – Financial Accountant
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 21 September 2025
Attachments: 17.2.1 Monthly Management Financial Report July 2025

Note this Item was held over from the August Meeting as comparisons to the 2025-26 Budget were not possible until the budget was adopted at that Meeting.

Matter for Consideration

The Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 Regulation 34 requires that local government report monthly and prescribes what is required to be reported. Council is required to consider and receipt the Monthly Financial Statements.

Comment

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

Budget/Financial Implications:

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

Consultation

RSM Australia

Recommendation

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

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr E Foulkes-Taylor

Seconded: Cr M Fowler

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

Carried

For

5

Against

0

17.3 Financial Activity Statements 31 August 2025

File: 2.6
Author: Travis Bate (RSM) – Financial Accountant
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 21 September 2025
Attachments: 17.3.1 Monthly Management Financial Report August 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 following comments are provided

- 1 Statement of Financial Activity.
 - a Opening surplus of \$702,772 has increased from the adopted budget of \$670,723. This is due to adjustments processed in preparation of the 2025 Annual Financial Statements. Balance is still subject to final audit.
 - b Closing surplus of \$1,880,443 against budget \$3,363,980. The material variances are outlined in Note 2.
- 2 Note 2 Material Variances:
 - a YTD Rate Revenue of \$895,841 all relates to back rates on Miscellaneous Mining Licences. Annual rates raised in September and will appear in next month's report.
 - b Depreciation expense has not been run for the year. This will be run once the 2025 audit is completed (due to limitations with the software should any audit adjustments be identified). This is a non-cash item and will not affect the reported surplus.
 - c Other variances are timing differences.
- 3 Note 4 – Total Cash balances \$9,941,089. \$2,049,903 unrestricted, \$7,891,186 restricted. Note that the term deposit matured in August and was rolled forward.
- 4 Note 9 Capital Expenditure 0. Refer to the Executive Summary for expenditure on significant projects.

Budget/Financial Implications:

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

Consultation

RSM Australia

Recommendation

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

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision				
Moved: Cr	Q Fowler	Seconded: Cr	G Mead	
That Council note the financial statements as presented for the period ending 31 August 2025 as attached				
Carried		For	5	Against 0

18 DEVELOPMENT

18.1 Community Development Progress Report

File:

Author: Bec Fogarty – Community Officer

Interest Declared: No interest to disclose

Date: 21 September 2025

Attachments: Nil

Matter for Consideration

Community Development Progress Report September Council Meeting

Background

This report seeks to inform the Shire of the works undertaken in relation to references to the relevant objectives and strategies contained within the Community Strategic Plan, in accordance with the following Vision Statement.

Vision Statement	<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

Planning for the 2026 Murchison Camp Oven Muster, scheduled for July 31st and August 1st, continues to progress steadily, following the success of the 2025 event. On September 9th, a "Save the Date" announcement was distributed via the community mailing list, the 2025 attendee mailing list, and posted across the Shire's Facebook and Instagram pages. In addition to the announcement, a social media photo campaign ran from September 2nd to 19th, with ten images posted each day. These photos showcased highlights from this year's event and were well received by the community, generating ongoing interest and engagement.

Also in September, we virtually met with SAGE Tourism and the community development team from neighbouring shires. During this meeting, the 2026 event theme, the International Year of the Pastoralist was introduced. The concept was met with enthusiasm, and there was genuine interest from the neighbouring shires in exploring a coordinated approach, incorporating similar themes into their own events. This collaboration presents an opportunity to create stronger regional connections and increase the visibility of pastoral culture across multiple communities.

Communications are planned to seek working group members for the 2026 event in October.

Event Feedback Summary

- Community feedback continues to come in via social media platforms, with a strong and positive tone.
- "It was an amazing weekend. Congratulations to all the volunteers and organisers involved. You did an amazing job. We'll be back next year to see if I can go for 2 in a row for best damper 😊."
- "Love love the photos! Keep them coming 😊."
- "Great weekend. Shame we will be on Hartog Island for next year's cookout. See you in 2027 😊."

These comments reflect the lasting impression the event has made and the growing anticipation for its return in 2026.

Tourism

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

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

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

Objective 4

Regional collaboration where possible;

Upcoming events

Annual Christmas Tree 13th December and Community Swimming Pool and Splash Pad Opening.

Tourism Partner News

AGO With the wildflower season now ramping up, AGO have launched a new quirky, fun, and practical campaign to encourage people to get out into the region and track down wildflowers. We've showcased the importance of going to visitor centres to get the latest expert advice, and we also facilitated the 9News TV Perth team to visit Dalwallinu to showcase their wildflower season on prime-time TV. Across the region now until late October in the South, AGO look forward to seeing people shake off Winter and exploring the region's fantastic road trips and attractions.

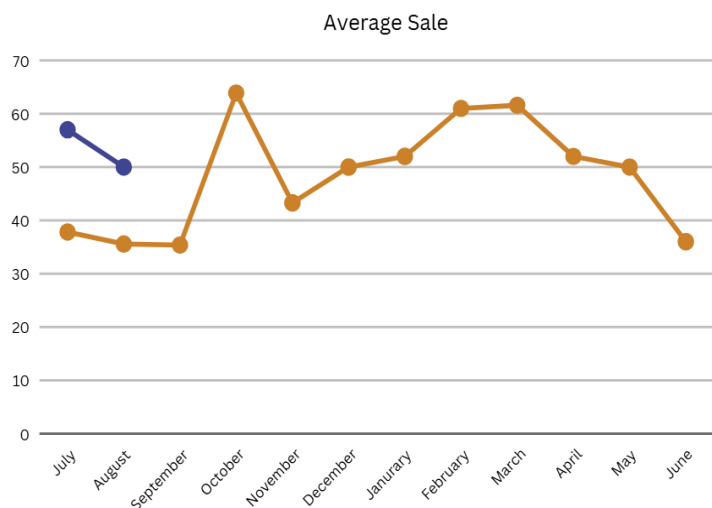
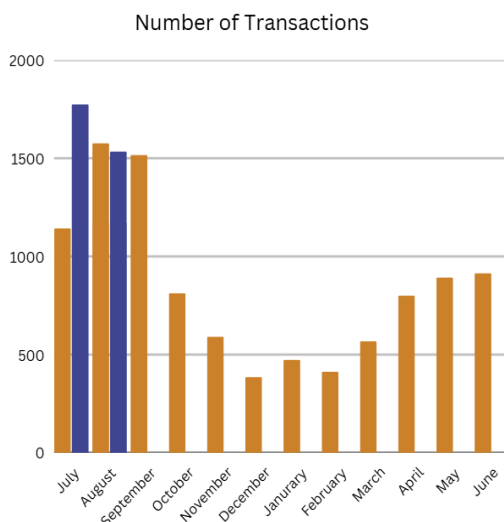
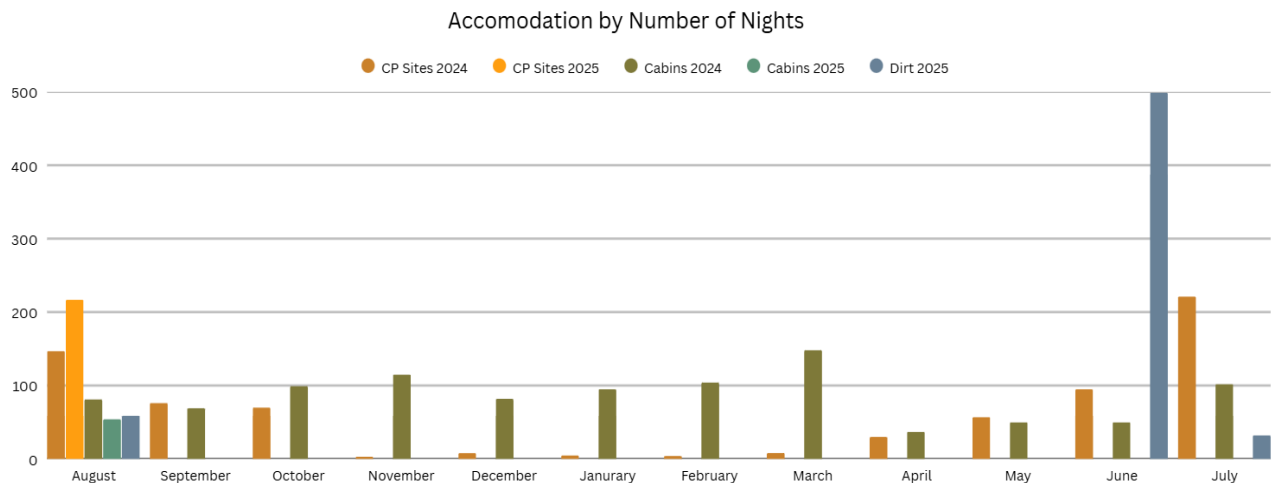
Gascoyne Murchison Outback Pathways Community Development Officers met for the first Tourism Network Meeting with Shires of Upper Gascoyne, Wiluna, Meekatharra and Murchison joining the conversation. We raised awareness for the International Year of the Rangelands and Pastoralists in 2026, this has opened the door to possible regional collaboration around the pastoralism theme. Rachel will be volunteering at the Spirit of Meekatharra Festival. A great learning experience and neighbourly way to help out. There were great insights shared about caravan park management, data measurement systems and development of a shared database for event service providers.

Tourism Council of WA have been working in collaboration with the Australian Tourism Industry Council to meet with Ministers and their staff to advocate on the key issues facing tourism business and regions these included:

- ~ Minister for Trade and Tourism – State of the tourism industry; international markets and aviation; support for SME and regional tourism business capability, sustainability and upskilling.
- ~ Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government - regional aviation and airports, domestic tourism aviation costs, tourism and regional development structures and grants, funding new regional attractions.

- ~ Assistant Minister Tourism and Northern Australia – regional tourism; tourism workforce and careers; working holiday makers; support for SME and regional tourism businesses capability, sustainability and upskilling.
- ~ Minister for the Environment and Water – tourism and natural & cultural heritage; reforms to the EPBC Act to reduce regulatory costs on sustainable tourism particularly in National Parks (Parks Australia/Kakadu); infrastructure and visitor facilities and management plans.
- ~ Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories - support for regional tourism business capability and sustainability and upskilling.
- ~ Minister for Small Business – reducing regulatory costs for SME tourism businesses; support for SME tourism business capability, sustainability and upskilling.

Roadhouse Update



August has seen the values of those transactions increase based on the same time in 2024. Caravan site bookings saw a significant increase this August, rising from 147 bookings in August last year to 217 this year. This growth reflects increased visitation and demand. Additional usage of the dirt camping area during the Camp Oven Muster, also contributed to the overall visitor numbers. The event drew nearly 50 more attendees over the weekend compared to last year, highlighting its growing popularity and positive impact on local tourism.

The Roadhouse has expanded its food offerings, now providing freshly baked homemade goods such as cookies and pastries, alongside a daily selection of fresh sandwiches. A recent addition included a well-received sushi special. They have also commenced weekly menu specials, with the lasagna proving particularly popular and selling out. To promote these offerings, the team has been actively sharing updates and images on social media, helping to increase community engagement and awareness.

Local Loyalty Scheme

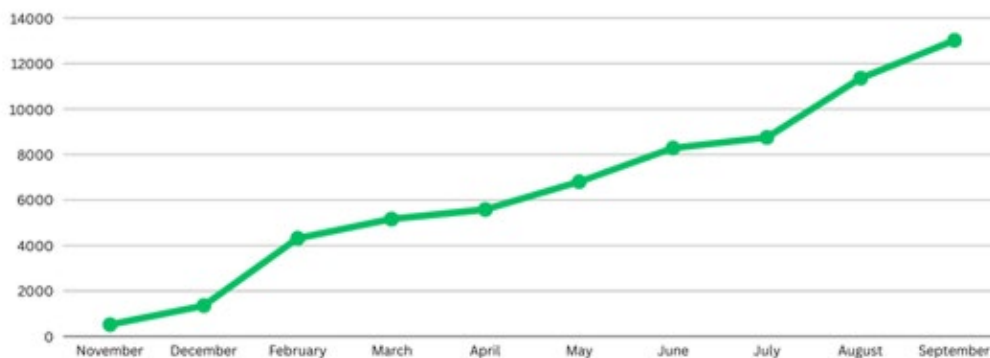
The Local Loyalty Scheme has been released online through the monologue. We look forward to seeing and processing applications as they arrive.

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.*

Containers collected and donated to the Shire for Community Groups



			=			
32.9K	1.6	\$3,290.0		7.6	5.8	19.8K
Total containers diverted from landfill	Total tonnes of containers saved	Refunded amount back to the community		M3 of landfill space saved	Tonnes of CO2 emissions saved	kWh energy saved

The latest return of containers has seen the total number of recycled vessels reach 13,021 produced or donated to the shire that is a running total of \$1,302.10 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 7.6M3 of landfill space.

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 continues to thrive with the arrival of spring. Tomato seed blocks prepared during the School of the Air camp have now been successfully transplanted into the garden beds, alongside onions. Additional supports have also been built and installed throughout the garden to help guide and support plant growth where needed.

The trees for the orchard have now been delivered and planted. These include apples, grapes, black sapote, plums, peaches, apricots, nectarines, guava, loquat, ice cream bean, lime, jujube, mango, macadamia, cherry, mandarin, and blueberries. This diverse range of fruit and nut trees is a fantastic addition to our ever-growing collection of home-grown produce and continues to support the long-term vision of a productive and sustainable community space.



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 5 Road Condition Reports
 - o 1 Murchison Camp Oven Muster Save the Date
 - o 4 Community Announcements
 - Ordinary Election Results
 - 2 Murdoch Vet Program
 - Wild At Art

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

Council Decision

Moved: Cr M Fowler

Seconded: Cr G Mead

That Council note the Community Development Progress Report

Carried

For 5

Against 0

Councillor Comments

Cr E Foulkes-Taylor commented that it was great to see our staff working with staff of other local governments in the region.

18.2 Southern Rangelands Pastoral Alliance Request for Partnership & Financial Support – International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists 2026

File: 13.2.3
Author: Bil Boehm – Chief Executive Officer
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 21 September 2025
Attachments: 18.2.1 Southern Rangelands Pastoral Alliance Request for Partnership & Financial Support – International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists 2026
18.2.2 Extract Council Minutes February 2022

Note Cr R Foulkes-Taylor, Cr E Foulkes-Taylor, Cr G Mead and Cr Q Fowler declared an Impartiality Interest in this matter

Matter for Consideration

Request for Partnership & Financial Support from the Southern Rangelands Pastoral Alliance (SRPA) ahead of the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists

Background

As per Attachment 18.2.1 at The February 2022 Council Meeting Council considered of a request from the Southern Rangelands Pastoral Alliance (SRPA) for financial operational support to assist in establishing the organisation as per the following resolution

That Council resolve as follows.

- 1 *Council supports the request from the Southern Rangelands Pastoral Alliance for an initial contribution of \$20,000 to help ensure the longevity of this important grower group which represents pastoralism interests in our Shire, and as a result, amends its 2020/21 budget to allocate this amount.*
- 2 *Council defers consideration of future funding allocations pending a review of progress over the ensuing 12 months.*

Since this time the SRPA has established a strong presence as a grower led organisation although from all accounts continues to suffer from a lack of operational funding which would allow also allow it to employ an Executive Officer

Request

The Chair of the SRPA has now written I am writing on behalf of the Southern Rangelands Pastoral Alliance (SRPA) to invite our Shire to partner with us in delivering Western Australia's contribution to the UN-declared International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP) in 2026.

The Southern Rangelands are globally significant — they cover more than 50% of WA's land area and are home to some of the most unique landscapes, heritage, and communities in the world. IYRP 2026 offers a once-in-a-generation opportunity to showcase this to national and international audiences, while driving new opportunities for tourism, investment, and sustainable development in our region.

SRPA has a strong track record of working with local governments across the Murchison and beyond, and we gratefully acknowledge your Shire's past support for our initiatives. We look forward to updating you on our progress at Cue Parliament in November 2025.

In 2026, we plan to deliver a program of events and activities that will:

- ~ Promote the cultural heritage, economic value, and environmental significance of our rangelands.
- ~ Support sustainable pastoralism and innovation in remote communities.
- ~ Attract visitors, investors, and partners to our region.
- ~ Celebrate the role of Shires as custodians of a globally significant landscape.

Planned activities include:

- ~ A major Rangelands Forum or Expo in the Murchison.
- ~ Public awareness campaigns and media features.

- ~ Field days showcasing best practice and new technologies.
- ~ Promotional materials profiling participating Shires.

To make this vision a reality, SRPA are seeking financial contributions from Shires across the Southern Rangelands. Each Council's support will be acknowledged in all relevant promotional materials, events, and communications, ensuring the Shire is recognised as a key partner in this international celebration.

Comment

I have been in contact with Tom-Foulkes-Taylor the SRPA Deputy Chair to further discuss and whilst no specific amount has been requested it seems that Council's contributed amount of \$20,000 would be welcome and provides some guidance. Ideally a more costed proposal could have been provided but the merits of supporting SRPA are strong, especially with respect to next year's UN-declared International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists which is a event that offers huge opportunities for the sector and our Shire Community.

As previously advised back in February 2022

"as an observation, Murchison Shire has a very strong ethos in ensuring that actions by Council are not just restricted to the normal road building actions that predominate Council budget expenditures. If that were not the case, then Murchison would still be operating as a Roads Board. Already Council provides significant support for the pastoral sector through actions such as bunding of roads, vermin bounties, environmental considerations in road construction etc but perhaps it's not articulated as it perhaps could be.

These actions are more or less encapsulated in Councils strategic community plan, which this request also covers. Perhaps this should be better articulated in the next version as the request has merit and in reality, is part our raison d'être (reason for being)."

As has been previously raised in my view these sentiments are even now stronger with the need to have a strong lobby group in the sector essential. A nominal \$10,000 has been allocated in the 2025/26 Budget for Rural based activities in anticipation of supporting the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists.

The recommendation below includes funding for the SRPA along previous lines but still retains the current allocation so as to provide for additional support locally should it be required as the Shire consolidates its pastoral support strategies

Strategic Implications

As articulated in attachment 18.2.2

Budget/Financial Implications

As outlined in the recommendation

Consultation

Tom Foulkes-Taylor (Deputy Chair SRPA), Mark Holdsworth (RDA Mid-West Gascoyne)

Recommendation

That Council resolve as follows.

- 1 Council supports the request from the Southern Rangelands Pastoral Alliance for a contribution of \$20,000 to help deliver its response to next year’s UN-declared International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists and as a result, amends its 2025/26 budget to allocate this amount
- 2 That Council continue to work with the SRPA to ensure the longevity of this important grower group which represents pastoralism interests in our Shire and to inform it of what measures may be required to assist with in the future

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision			
Moved: Cr	M Fowler	Seconded: Cr	G Mead
That Council resolve as follows.			
1 Council supports the request from the Southern Rangelands Pastoral Alliance for a contribution of \$20,000 to help deliver its response to next year’s UN-declared International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists and as a result, amends its 2025/26 budget to allocate this amount			
2 That Council continue to work with the SRPA to ensure the longevity of this important grower group which represents pastoralism interests in our Shire and to inform it of what measures may be required to assist with in the future			
Carried	For	5	Against 0

19 ADMINISTRATION

19.1 October 2025 Ordinary Elections

File:	4.9
Author:	Bill Boehm - Returning Officer
Interest Declared:	No interest to disclose
Date	21 September 2025
Attachments:	Nil

Matter for Consideration

Report to the Council on the conduct of the 2025 Ordinary Council Election.

Background

Prior to the conduct of the 2025 Elections, the Electoral Commission was engaged to prepare a resident's roll and conduct the 2025 Ordinary Council Elections.

Part of this approach included the following

- ~ Notice of Enrolling to Vote
- ~ Notice calling for nominations
- ~ Declaration of nominations received

Nominations

As previously advised by email and as publicly advertised at the close of the nomination period two nominations were received for the three vacancies on Council. The following persons have been elected to the office of councillor.

FOULKES-TAYLOR, Emma
MEAD, Greydon

As a result, an Extraordinary Election will be required to be held to fulfill the remaining vacancy.

Councillors Terms

The term of retiring Councillors, Cr Emma Foulkes-Taylor, Cr Greydon Mead and Cr M Fowler will cease at 6pm on Saturday 18 October 2025.

Incoming Councillors elect, Emma Foulkes-Taylor and Greydon will commence their terms as councillor following their respective declarations of Office up until their term expiry on 20 October 2029.

Strategic Implications

Nil

Policy Implications

Nil

Budget/Financial Implications:

Provision has been made within the 2025/26 budget

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

Recommendation

That Council note the Chief Executive Officer’s Report on the October 2025 Ordinary Council Elections.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: **Cr** E Foulkes-Taylor

Seconded: **Cr** Q Fowler

That Council note the Chief Executive Officer’s Report on the October 2025 Ordinary Council Elections.

Carried

For 5

Against 0

19.2 2025 Extraordinary Election

File: 4.9
Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 21 September 2025
Attachments: Nil

Matter for Consideration

Conduct of the Extraordinary Election required to fill one vacancy following the 2025 Ordinary Council Election

Background

As indicated in the previous Agenda Item at the close of the nomination period two nominations were received for the three vacancies on Council. The following persons have been elected to the office of councillor. until 20 October 2029.

FOULKES-TAYLOR, Emma
MEAD, Greydon

As a result, an Extraordinary Election will be required to be held to fulfill the remaining vacancy

Statutory Environment

Provisions relating to an Extraordinary Election include the following

Local Government Act 1995

4.9 Election day for extraordinary election

- (1) *Any poll needed for an extraordinary election is to be held on a day decided on and fixed —*
 - (a) *by the mayor or president, in writing, if a day has not already been fixed under paragraph (b); or*
 - (b) *by the council at a meeting held within one month after the vacancy occurs, if a day has not already been fixed under paragraph (a).*
- (2) *The election day fixed for an extraordinary election is to be a day that allows enough time for the electoral requirements to be complied with but, unless the Electoral Commissioner approves or section 4.10(b) applies, it cannot be later than 4 months after the vacancy occurs.*
- (3) *If at the end of one month after the vacancy occurs an election day has not been fixed, the CEO is to notify the Electoral Commissioner and the Electoral Commissioner is to —*
 - (a) *fix a day for the holding of the poll that allows enough time for the electoral requirements to be complied with; and*
 - (a) *advise the CEO of the day fixed.*

4.37 New roll for each election

- (1) *An electoral roll is to be prepared for the election.*
- (2) *If the district is not divided into wards the same electoral roll can be used for the election of an elector mayor or president and the election of a councillor or councillors.*
- (3) *A new electoral roll need not be prepared for the election if —*
 - (a) *it is an extraordinary election the election day for which is less than 100 days after the election day for another election; and*
 - (a) *the CEO, with the approval of the Electoral Commissioner, decides that the roll that was used for the earlier election is suitable for use at the extraordinary election.*

4.47. Nominations, call for

- (1) *Statewide public notice calling for nominations of candidates for the election must be given on or after the 56th day, but not later than on the 45th day, before election day by —*
 - (a) *the Electoral Commissioner if the Electoral Commissioner is responsible for the conduct of the election; or*
 - (a) *the returning officer in any other case.*

4.49 How to make an effective nomination

- (1) *The nomination of a candidate “amongst other things” is only effective if-*
- (a) *a completed nomination paper, in the prescribed form, is received by the returning officer at the nomination place (by delivery, post, facsimile or other prescribed means) within the period beginning on the 44th day before election day and ending at 4 p.m. on the 37th day before election day (the close of nominations);*

Matters to Consider

The process for scheduling the Shire’s extraordinary election, will need to consider:

- ~ Section 4.9(1) allows for the President to fix the extraordinary election day, if the Council has not already resolved to fix the day within one month after the vacancy occurs.
In this case the vacancy occurred as at the declaration of election result on 4 September 2025 and therefore if the Shire has a Council meeting between now and the 9 October, then this is the only time the decision can be made by Council resolution, otherwise it is up to the Shire President. This meeting provides such an opportunity.
- ~ Section 4.9(2) provides that the election day fixed for an extraordinary election must allow enough time for the electoral requirements to be complied with and it cannot be more than 4 months after the vacancy occurs unless approved by the Electoral Commissioner.
Note: 4 months after the vacancy occurred on 4 September 2025 will be 4 January 2026 (calculated in accordance with s.62 of the Interpretation Act 1984). Note the inconsistency between this calculation and the calculation below for 100 days.
- ~ Section 4.37(3) provides that a new residential and owners and occupiers roll does not need to be prepared if:
 - * It is required for an extraordinary election and the extraordinary election day is less than 100 days after the election day for another election. In this instance:
 - * *Election day* is defined under s.4.1 as meaning the day fixed under this Act for the holding of any poll needed for an election.
 - * The Ordinary election day is specified under s.4.7 to be held on the 3rd Saturday in October every 2 years and is on 18 October 2025.
 - * 100 days after 18 October 2025 is 26 January 2026, but this is modified as per the note above.
 - * The CEO, with the approval of the Electoral Commissioner (obtained in writing) decides that the roll that was used for the earlier election is suitable for use at the extraordinary election.
- ~ Section 4.39(4) provides that if a decision has been made under s.4.37(3), then there no notice is required to be published calling for enrolments / notice of the close of enrolments that would otherwise be required under s.4.39(3).

Given that the current roll has very recently been finalised, and that this additional work has potential costs and delays, as CEO I have determined under s4.37(3)(b) that it is suitable and have written to the Electoral Commissioner seeking his approval for the current roll to be used for this extraordinary election. At the time of preparing this Agenda Item a response has yet to arrive. If a contested election is required, the voters would be the very same ones applicable to the Ordinary Election.

The fixing of the extraordinary election day would have to allow sufficient time for compliance with the statutory notice requirements for the close of roll, as the Electoral Commissioner has discretion to refuse the Shire’s request to use the 2025 ordinary election roll. If this occurred, the Shire would have to produce a relevant notice and the Act does not provide the ability to change an election date once fixed other than by Governor’s order but only where it clashes with a Commonwealth or State Election. (s.4.1B)

In this respect the above the following minimum times to an election are applicable:

Item	Current Roll	New Roll
Enrolment Notice	Not applicable	Between 77 and 63 days before election day
Nomination Notice	Between 63 and 52 days before election day	Between 63 and 52 days before election day
Nominations Period	Between 51 and 44 days before election day	Between 51 and 44 days before election day

The WAEC have advised that a December 2025 Election would be the earliest the Commission would be able to deliver. This election would be a “postal” election

Alternatively Council could have the CEO conduct the election which would need to be “in person.” Given the circumstances, including that there is not expected to be existing councillors involved, the potential for perceptions of conflict of interest for the CEO is minimised. Voting is also simpler. On this basis I am open to performing the role if it is so desired.

Based on using the current roll, with the CEO conducting the election the minimum period would be 56 days from the day nominations are called for. ie an 8-week period. It also seems customary to have election day on a Saturday and to open and close of nominations on a Thursday. If all things were to be expedited, and assuming that Council is to run the extraordinary election, the earliest an election could be specified would be around 15 November 2025. For administrative reasons it would be perhaps desirable to allow a bit of leeway with the above minimum times.

Comment

Comments outlined in the previous Agenda Item relating to whom should run the extraordinary election are considered relevant.

Whilst the 26 September 2025 Council Meeting is effectively the only time Council can make a decision on the election date, in lieu of the Shire President acting alone, given that at the time this Agenda Item was prepared approval from the Electoral Commissioner to use the current roll current has yet to be obtained, and to avoid any perceptions of any potential conflicts of interest that may or may not apply, it is suggested that the Shire President fix the election day as per the recommendation below.

In any event pursuant to s4.9(3) of the Act this must be done by 18 October 2025 or that aspect, (fixing then election date) will fall to the Electoral Commissioner.

Strategic Implications

Nil

Policy Implications

Nil

Budget/Financial Implications:

Provision has been made within the 2025/26 budget. If the Electoral Commission were to undertake the work, additional costs as yet undetermined, may be required.

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

Recommendation

- 1 That Council note the Chief Executive Officer’s Report on the 2025 Extraordinary Election.
Note it is assumed that the Shire will conduct the 2025 Extraordinary Election but if not, then this aspect needs to be decided upon prior to considering the next recommendation
- 2 That Council, having decided to undertake the 2025 Extraordinary Election agrees that the Shire President should fix the Election date.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr Q Fowler

Seconded: Cr M Fowler

- 1 That Council note the Chief Executive Officer's Report on the 2025 Extraordinary Election.
- 2 That Council, having decided to undertake the 2025 Extraordinary Election agrees that the Shire President should fix the Election date.
- 3 That the CEO conduct the election

Carried

For

5

Against

0

Councillor Comment

The Shire President advised that he had received advice from some members of the community indicating that they were interested in standing for election.

20 CEO ACTIVITY REPORT

File:
 Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer
 Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
 Date: 22 September 2025
 Attachments: Nil

General

The following update of activities is provided.

Date	Activity
26.08.2025	Administration Emails
27.08.2025	Timesheet Work. SKA Work. Rates Work. Catch up with Works Manager & Community Manager. Phone catch up with Shire President
28.08.2025	Council Meeting & Workshops. Council Minutes
29.08.2025	Council Minutes and followed up actions. Annual Return Work. Catch up with Community Manager. Building inspections with Community Manager & BBSC
30.08.2025 to 31.08.2025	Council Meeting Follow up actions
1.09.2025	SKA Work. Election Work
2.09.2025	SKA Work. Election Work. Catch up with Works Manager & Community Manager
3.09.2025	Touch base with Upper Gascoyne Shire CEO by phone. Election Work with Returning Officer. SKA Work. General Administration
4.09.2025	Election Work with Returning Officer. Catch up with Community Manager. General Administration. Roads To Recovery Acquittal Work
5.09.2025 to 6.09.2025	General Administration. Roads to Recovery Acquittal Work
8.09.2025	Grants Commission Road Data Return. General Administration
9.09.2025	General Administration. Timesheets
10.09.2025	Miscellaneous Mining Licence Work. Parks & Gardens Team Meeting. Meeting and site inspections with Phil Swain & Community Manager
11.09.2025	Miscellaneous Mining Licences Work MRWA Technical Working Group Work. General Administration. .
12.09.2025	Miscellaneous Mining Licence Work. Parks & Gardens Team Meeting. Meeting and site inspections with Phil Swain & Community Manager
13.09.2025	General Administration.
15.09.2025	General Administration. Catch up with Community Manager. Attend MRWA Technical Working Group Meeting via Teams. Telephone catch up with Shire President. Election Work
16.09.2025	General Administration. Catch up with Community Manager Works Manager. Audit Regulation Section 17(3) Review work.
17.09.2025	General Administration. Fuel Review Audit Regulation Section 17(3) Review work. Touch base with Shire President via phone
18.09.2025	TOIL
19.09.2025	TOIL. Fuel Review. Emails Administration
20.09.2025	Council Agenda Work
22.09.2025	TOIL Council Agenda Work. Miscellaneous Mining License Work and General Administration

Recommendation

That Council note the CEO’s Activity Report.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision				
Moved: Cr	G Mead	Seconded: Cr	M Fowler	
That Council note the CEO’s Activity Report.				
Carried		For	5	Against
				0

21 OTHER ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

Nil

22 MEETING CLOSURE

Councillor Comments

Cr Q Fowler thanked the Shire staff for printing the Landor Gymkhana Programs

The Shire President wished outgoing councillor Cr M Fowler all the best wishes with her future endeavours.

The Shire President closed the meeting at 12.45pm.

Minutes of the Meeting were confirmed at the Council Meeting held on 23 October 2025

Signed..... Presiding Officer