



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 **27 November 2025**, commencing at 12 Noon.

Ancient land under brilliant skies

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ATTACHMENTS

1 DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

The Shire President declared the meeting open at

2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Present

Councillors

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

Staff

Bill Boehm – CEO
William Herold – Works Manager
Rebecca Fogarty – Community Manager

Apologies

Travis Bate (RSM) – Financial Accountant

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

3.1 Ordinary Council Meeting – 23 October 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 23 October 2025 be confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings.

Voting Requirements:

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr

Seconded: Cr

Carried/Lost

For

Against

4 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

5 RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE

Nil

6 STANDING ORDERS

Matter for Consideration

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

Recommendation

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

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

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

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

7 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

8 NEXT MEETING

Saturday 13 December 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

13 PETITIONS/DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS/SUBMISSIONS

14 ANNOUNCEMENTS CONCERNING MEETINGS ATTENDED

14.1 Shire President

14.2 Councillors

15 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Nil

16 WORKS

16.1 Works Report

File: 12.42
Author: William Herold – Works Manager
Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer **
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 23 November 2025
Attachments: 16.1.1 Mid-West Regional Road Group Reference Information for Elected Members
16.1.2 Multi-Criteria Assessment (MCA) Model Outline

Construction

The construction crew continue to make steady progress and thanks to CEO Bill successfully shaking the money tree yet again they will be doing an extra few kilometers which will mean they will still be busy on their return from Christmas break. The floodways will also now be done in the New year. By the time Council meets the culvert installation at SLK 201 should also be completed.

Maintenance

The John Deere grader is back, but not without a few issues. The Carnarvon Mullewa Rd. from the Settlement to the north boundary has been completed. They are currently on the Beringarra-Byro Rd. heading east and will pick up the Erong and Innouendy roads on the way past, then pick up Mt. Gould and Beringarra-Cue roads. This will probably take them pretty close to the Christmas shut down.

Flood Damage Works

I anticipate that both AGRN 1021 and AGRN1062 should be near completion by February 2026, ending what has turned out to be a frustrating exercise.

SKA Route Upgrade and Maintenance:

These works continue with Walladar engaged in re-sheet work on the CGG side of the Carnarvon Mullewa Rd including stockpiling of gravel resources. Squires Resources have mainly been involved in maintenance on the rest of the route. They are due to commence re-sheeting in the coming weeks.

The purchase of Kalli Station and the extension of the arm out to the Kalli homestead is going to place considerable pressure on the Boolardy-Kalli Rd. I hope there will be additional funding made available as some sections on this road will have to be upgraded. Up to now only the first 13 Km have been funded by the MRWA administered funding and it should be noted that the Shire has picked up the balance of the maintenance to the Boolardy Kalli boundary, approximately 13 Km. The CEO has advised that this looming issue has been raised in a preliminary manner with our CSIRO and MRWA contacts with further discussion to follow.

Water Upgrade Work

The chlorinator has been installed and is functioning. Any form of power outage tends to trigger various alarms which simply have to be cleared. At the moment it appears to be functioning normally.

Power Upgrade

The new shed has arrived but has not yet been erected. The concrete slabs for the shed and new fuel tank have been thrown and the conduit trenched in and covered.

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 in order to take up a surplus of MRWA funds for this year. Essentially this location was part of the 2026/27 submission. Application was for a part project as a full project would have maxed out the Regional Roads Group cap per local government and was assessed in accordance with the established

scoring methodology. Meanwhile the State also had a small surplus of funds and invited applications for a “shovel ready” projects. On both accounts our applications were successful

As a result the full project from 2026/27 will be now funded this financial year as follows and is a bonus given the economies of scale involved.

Source	State	LGA	Total
MRWA Mid-West	\$120,055	\$60,027	\$180,082
Shovel Ready	\$179,945	\$89,973	\$269,918
Revised Project Total	\$300,000	\$150,000	\$450,000

Meanwhile the submitted reconstruction and widening projects (5 in No) between the Ballinyoo Bridge and Settlement for 2026/27 were approved at the recent MRWA Regional Roads Group Meeting but we will have to provide an alternative location to replace the above project. . Each is for a \$450,000 project with a \$300,000 grant.

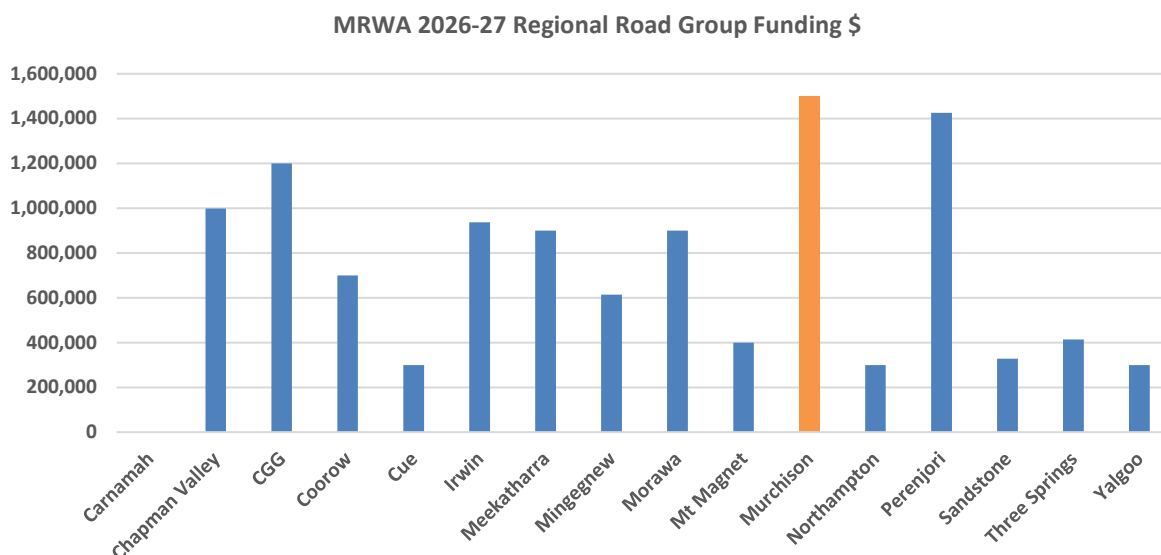
All up we are now undertaking 6 Projects. February 2026 Budget Review will include the required amendments with adjustments to Roads to Recovery funding assisting meeting the additional funding shortfall for thos additional project.

Source	State	LGA	Total
Revised Program	\$1,800,000	\$900,000	\$2,700,000

MRWA Regional Road Group Meeting **

Summary of key points from the 14 November 2025 MRWA Regional Road Group Meeting chaired by Shire President Rossco are as follows.

- 1 Mid-West Regional Road Group Reference Information for Elected Members as attached
- 2 Approval of 2026/27 projects including those for Murchison as outlined above noting that our Shire was successful with 5 Projects.



- 3 From 2027/28 maximum individual project funding will be increased to \$360,000. (State \$360,000, LGA \$180,000, Total \$ 540,000)
- 4 Multi-Criteria Assessment (MCA) Model Revisions
The WALGA Infrastructure Team continues to work with the Regional Road Groups to better align the MCA models used by Regional Road Groups to prioritise projects for Road Project Grant funding with the Agreement. The proposed changes to the MCA models reflect the new focus areas of the State Roads Funds to Local Government Agreement, while still allowing for flexibility to recognise the significant differences between regions. A copy of an outline of the MCA Process is attached. There has been some comment on how it is to be implemented and from preliminary discussion it seems

that the nuances associated with implementation are in their infancy, but at least environmental and social considerations are now included, even if the notional weightings appear to be on the light side.

- 5 MRWA will investigate whether surplus regional funds can be used for a 'Condition Survey' of all roads listed in the ROADS 2040 document
- 6 From discussions the current statewide funding agreement provides 20% motor vehicle licence fees application on local government roads. That's \$307 million worth of new money in 2025-26, that's this current year, and there's \$64 million that's carried over from previous years a situation that needs to be addressed. In our case, regionally we can be underspent, but we're also, some councils have got a cap in place. If there's additional money coming through, there would be options for the cap to be changed to increase the number of projects. I know that there's more than one local government who would be able to get more projects done if there was more money allocated. Certainly, in our case, we do that, but I'm sure there'd be other councils as well.

Recommendation

That the Works Report be noted

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

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

17 FINANCE

17.1 Accounts Paid since the last list was presented to Council

File: 4.37.1
Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 23 November 2025
Attachments: 17.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for October 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 October 2025 be discussed behind closed doors
- 2 That Council receive and note attachment 17.1.1 EFT & Cheque Details for October 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

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

The meeting was moved out of closed doors at

2 Decisions Disclosed from the Closed Section of Meeting associated with Attachment Item 18.1

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

17.2 Financial Activity Statements 31 October 2025

File: 2.6
Author: Travis Bate (RSM) – Financial Accountant
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 23 November 2025
Attachments: 17.2.1 Monthly Management Financial Report October 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 (Page 5)
 - a Note that opening surplus has been revised to \$317,050 (was \$702,773 in September report). Adjustment relates to writeback of an accounts receivable balance at 30 June 2025 in relation to road contributions following consultation with auditors.
 - b Closing surplus at 31 October \$2,321,465 compared with YTD budget of \$3,127,156. Variance can largely be attributed to:
 - i timing of Transport operating grants (SKA) \$602,592
 - ii timing of material and contracts expenditure \$679,272

These variances are discussed in Note 2
- 2 Note 2 Material Variances (Page 19) – variances are largely attributable to the same factors as outlined in the September report
- 3 Note 4 (Page 2) – Total Cash balances \$10,345,232 – unrestricted \$2,450,815, restricted \$7,894,418
- 4 Note 9 Capital Expenditure (Page 25), notable expenditure since September report relates to:
 - a Power supply upgrade – additional \$122,467 expenditure
 - b Roadworks - \$672,977 additional expenditure across the various 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 October 2025 as attached.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr

Seconded: Cr

Carried/Lost

For

Against

17.3 Roadhouse Fuel Facilities Budget Amendment

File: 2.6
Author: Rebecca Fogarty – Community Manager
Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer **
Interest Declared: No interest to disclose
Date: 23 November 2025
Attachments: Nil

Matter for Consideration

Amendment to 2025-26 budget to take into consideration need to replace and upgrade of fuel facilities at the Roadhouse now .

Background

In 2014 the Shire installed a Compac 24/7 fuel payment and dispensing system. The fuel system has been troublesome for some time with periodical outages due to bad internet connections to electrical faults and system failures dating back to September 2024. The Shire has since taken remedial actions to install starlink to remove internet connection troubles, upgrades electrical switches however the System failures can not be addressed due to outdated now unsupported systems.

Examples of outages and impacts are shown as follows.

- ~ October 3rd Fuel System Failure – Electrical Failure required Hosken emergency call out to replace RCD's in the Fuel bund complex. The impact was system not accessible at all provision of diesel was made through the Roadhouse during open hours only, staff took a prepayment and customers drive to alternative location, tanks located at the depot were utilised that were normally not for this purpose bowser nozzle size limited access.
- ~ October 22nd - Payment System Failure – SKP tamp, failure of the card reader and pin pad due to mis treatment or tampering by the public. The impact was we were offline for 3 weeks with pumps in standalone mode. Standalone mode means manual pumping only which ment fuel access was dependant on Roadhouse opening hours and staff going out to unlock, pump and then take payment inside the Roadhouse which presents an increased risk.

Solutions

Install a new System.

The current system has been in place since 2014 and while the appearance has not changed the software and hardware has. The current system operates the COM FMS system where the new PT1 machine operate COM5 processors. Compac have noted that the COM FMS is no longer supported and this would be the core reason to upgrade.

Option 1 Replace Existing Payment Machine and Bowser

Provision of a budget of \$58,000 plus 10% for potential variation \$63,800 to purchase and install a new system.

Option 2 Expand Existing System

Alternatively, we could expand accessibility by retaining the current bowser and adding a second which would have an additional cost of \$20,000 - \$35,000. It is proposed that the second bowser be set up the same as the first with both unleaded and diesel available.

Options	Parts	Installation Costs	Totals
1 Replace Existing Payment Machine and Bowser	\$25,000 – Payment Machine \$15,000 – Bowser	\$15,000 - \$18,000	\$58,000
2 Add an additional Bowser	\$15,000	\$20,000 - \$35,000	\$93,000
Ongoing Financial Mgt Costs	No Change to existing		

Policy Implications

Policy 5.3 Roadhouse Fuel

Budget/Financial Implications **

As outlined above.

Under Policy 5.3 Roadhouse Fuel, Council aims to operate the Roadhouse Fuel Facilities at neither a profit or a loss over the medium to long term with prices set at the bowser to be a percentage margin above the freight delivered price (currently 15%). This is to be achieved through periodic reviews of operating and capital costs.

As outlined on an annual basis the operations of fuel facilities usually return a notional “profit” with results of operations over the past 3 years shown as follows.

Item	2023	2024	2025
Operations			
Roadhouse Diesel Fuel Purchases	319,351	330,360	306,825
Roadhouse ULP Fuel Purchases	60,614	58,009	61,115
Roadhouse Fuel Facilities Maintenance	0	0	0
Roadhouse Fuel Other Expenses	2,980	3,391	3,718
Depreciation	0	0	0
Roadhouse Fuel Sales	(415,776)	(430,545)	(398,494)
Notional Operating Profit	(32,831)	(38,785)	(26,836)
Capital Expenses	0	0	0

There has historically no specific transfer of profits on sales per se, with capital expenses for these facilities capable of being funded covered either through revenue or the Council Settlement Assets Reserve. Both of these options can be considered at the next February 2026 Budget Review

Consultation

William Herold Works Manager, Bill Boehm CEO, Compac, FME Fuel Maintenance Engineering, RSM Australia

Comments **

Given the yearly profits made for operations and ongoing ability to tweak future fuels prices charged within the policy framework and long-term needs option 2 is recommended

Recommendation

That Council amends the 2025/26 budget to include an amount of \$93,000 for replacement and upgrade of fuel facilities at the Roadhouse as outlined in this report

Voting Requirements

Absolute Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr

Seconded: Cr

Carried/Lost

For

Against

18 DEVELOPMENT

18.1 Community Development Progress Report

File:

Author: Bec Fogarty – Community Officer

Interest Declared: No interest to disclose

Date: 24 November 2025

Attachments: Nil

Matter for Consideration

Community Development Progress Report November 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>

Tourism Actions

Economic Objective 1	<i>To develop the region's economic potential to encourage families and businesses to stay in the area.</i>
Tourism Development	<i>To promote and support a sustainable tourism industry in the Shire of Murchison.</i>
Civic Leadership Objective 4	<i>To provide Good Governance to the Murchison Shire through: Regional collaboration where possible;</i>

Destination Marketing Strategy

The purpose of this Destination Marketing Strategy is to establish a distinct tourism identity for Murchison, one that supports and strengthens the work being undertaken across all levels of tourism partners. By creating consistent visuals, messaging, and tone, the strategy aims to pool resources, develop existing marketing assets and create an entry point for visitors that supports our core brand Ancient Lands Under Brilliant Skies with the complementary message “It’s in Our Nature”

This identity reflects the essence of Murchison its landscapes, heritage, and community spirit capturing the natural character of the region. It ensures that our story is told with clarity and consistency, positioning Murchison as a unique destination where sustainable tourism and authentic experiences thrive.

The strategy provides a guide to visual, verbal, and written cues that will:

- ~ Support the production of marketing materials across digital and print platforms
- ~ Shape settlement signage and wayfinding, creating a unified visitor experience
- ~ Build familiarity before arrival, ensuring visitors know what to expect and feel welcomed
- ~ Reinforce brand consistency, so every touchpoint reflects the values of Murchison

By aligning these elements, the strategy creates a cohesive identity that strengthens regional collaboration, enhances visitor engagement, and builds long-term recognition of Murchison as a destination of choice.

Marketing Strategy is available at this link please forward feedback to community@murchison.wa.gov.au
murchison.wa.gov.au/documents/986/destination-marketing-strategy-2025

Upcoming events

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

CDO Collaboration

The Mid-West Executive Group (MEG) has initiated a valuable program for Community Development Officers to gather twice a year for in-person meetings aligned with Cue Parliament. This initiative has now been successfully held on two occasions, with thanks to Bev Bronsan and the Mid West Development Commission for their support.

The most recent gathering included a half-day workshop facilitated by Julian Canny, aimed at distilling the purpose of these meetings and identifying the successes each Shire hopes to achieve through collaboration. Attendees included representatives from the Shire of Wiluna, Mt Magnet, Upper Gascoyne, Winda Barna Art Centre (Mt Magnet), and the Shire of Cue, with hybrid participation from the Shire of Yalgoo and Shire of Meekatharra.

Key themes emerging from the discussions included:

- ~ Community pride
- ~ Housing
- ~ Human resources and capacity building
- ~ Generating willingness and engagement
- ~ Increasing storytelling
- ~ Collaboration at both local and regional levels

The initiative is already proving to be a strong platform for shared learning and regional cooperation, and we look forward to receiving the facilitator's summary to guide future actions.



AGO

The development of the 2026 Australia's Golden Outback Strategy has been informed by both the Mid West Region Overnight Visitors Factsheet and the Australia's Golden Outback Overnight Visitors Factsheet. From this research, detailed visitor profiles have been created to identify Australians most likely to take "Simple Nature" trips when travelling intrastate.

These trips focus on relaxation, recharging, and family time, with preferred destinations offering:

- ~ Unique wildlife encounters
- ~ Immersion in nature
- ~ Unspoilt natural beauty
- ~ Road trips and off-the-beaten-track adventures

The new campaign has opened doors to target specific visitor personas—whether they are "sausage roll chasers," "backseat singers," or "coffee chasers." This playful approach highlights the diversity of travellers and connects them with the authentic experiences available across the Gascoyne Murchison region.

Gascoyne Murchison Outback Pathways

The first in-person meeting with Sage Tourism brought together representatives from the Shires of Wiluna, Meekatharra, Cue, and Upper Gascoyne. The session focused on asset mapping and exploring opportunities for resource sharing, with a strong emphasis on building collaborative approaches to regional tourism development.

A key outcome of the workshop was the recognition of the importance of becoming a consistent and reliable source of up-to-date information. Aligning this process with the Australian Tourism Data Warehouse (ATDW) was identified as a practical way to ensure accurate information flows through all levels of tourism organisations, strengthening promotion and visibility of the region.

The discussions highlighted the value of cooperation across Shires and the potential for shared systems to enhance both local and regional tourism outcomes.

Tourism Council of WA

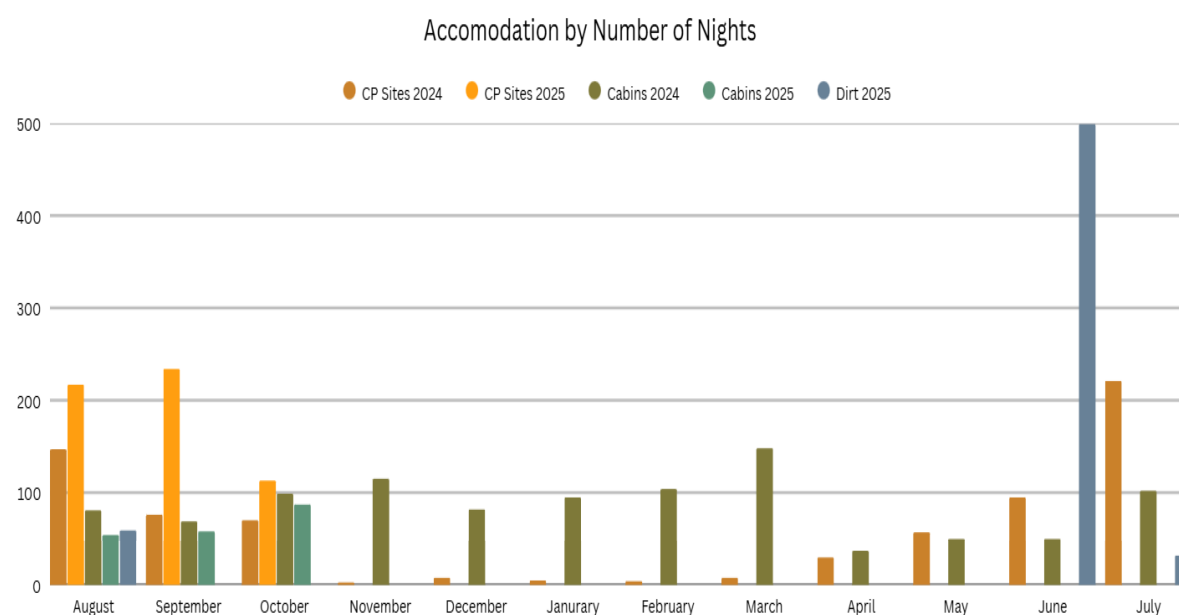
The Tourism Council of WA, in partnership with Perth Airport, celebrated the WA Tourism Awards in November. Finalists representing the Murchison region included Australia's Golden Outback with the *DeTour to the Gascoyne Murchison* tourism marketing campaign, and Wooleen Station in the categories of Hosted Accommodation and Ecotourism.

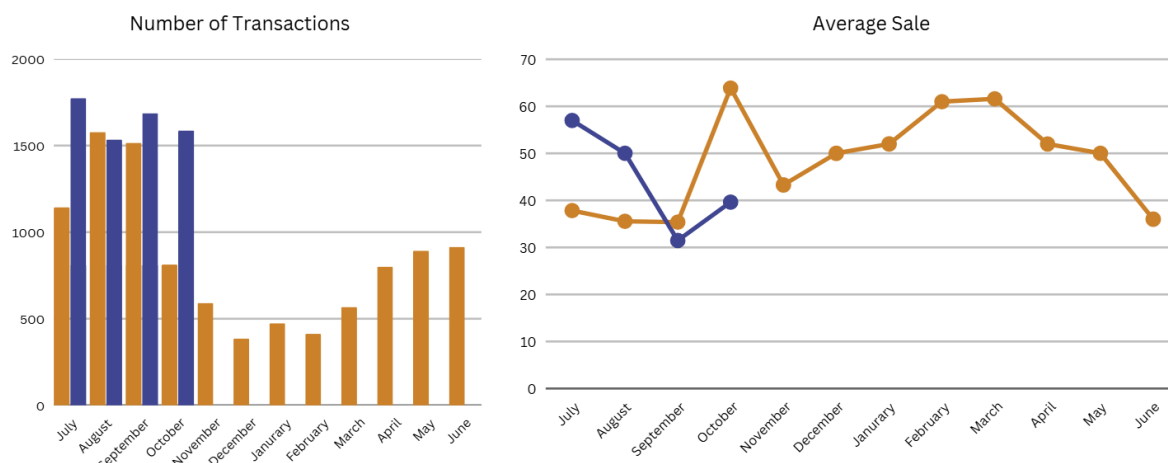
We proudly acknowledge Frances and Wooleen Station for their outstanding achievements—taking Gold in Hosted Accommodation and Bronze in Ecotourism. These awards highlight how sustainable tourism can successfully co-exist with a functioning pastoral enterprise, showcasing the regenerative approach to land management shown in the Murchison.

Their success is a testament to the region's unique blend of heritage, innovation, and commitment to sustainability, and it shines a spotlight on the Murchison as a destination of choice for visitors seeking authentic outback experiences.

Roadhouse Operations

Statistics





Operational Summary

Caravan Park sites experienced increased number than the previous year at the same time. This could be attributed to the bumper traffic that came through around the time of Landor races and the cooler environment that was experienced during October.

Roadhouse patronage doubled in October 25 in comparison to October 24 this is likely due to fuel pump breakdowns which meant transactions usually processed without staff interventions became the staffs responsibility. I'd like to thank the Roadhouse staff for their support during this time.

Fuel Service Status

- ~ **Update:** 24/7 fuel availability has been successfully reinstated at the Roadhouse.
- ~ **Acknowledgment:** Appreciation is extended to all staff and contractors involved in troubleshooting, sourcing parts, and coordinating installation.
- ~ **Risk Assessment:** The current fuel system has exceeded its typical lifespan (11 years vs. standard 7–10 years).
- ~ **Recommendation:** Begin planning and budgeting for fuel system replacement within the next 12 months to ensure continuity of service and mitigate risk of failure.

Management Leave

- ~ **Managers:** Darren and Ronnie will be on leave for **two months** to spend time with family in Victoria.
- ~ **Timing:** Leave coincides with the Roadhouse's quietest operational period, minimizing impact on business operations.

Operational Adjustments

- ~ **Action:** Roadhouse operating hours will be **temporarily reduced** during this period to optimize staffing costs and availability as per the schedule below.
- ~ **Contractor Support Measures:**
 - Continental breakfast provided in rooms
 - Freshly made lunches available from the Roadhouse
 - Fresh or frozen homemade meals for dinner

Normal Summer Hours

Monday 8:30am – 5:30pm
 Tuesday 8:30am – 5:30pm
 Wednesday 8:30am – 5:30pm
 Thursday 8:30am – 5:30pm
 Friday 8:30am – 5:30pm
 Saturday 8:30am – 4:00pm
 Sunday 9:00am – 12:00noon

Modified Hours (Dec – Early Feb)

Monday 8:30am – 2:30pm
 Tuesday 8:30am – 2:30pm
 Wednesday 8:30am – 2:30pm
 Thursday 8:30am – 5:30pm
 Friday 8:30am – 2:30pm
 Saturday 8:30am – 2:00pm
 Sunday CLOSED

Local Loyalty Scheme

Applications to the local loyalty scheme have slowed in recent weeks; however, with the annual Christmas Tree event and the pool opening approaching, we anticipate a sharp increase in new applications. This expected growth is linked to the process that allows community members to become preapproved for pool access through the loyalty card system, providing an added incentive for participation.

Following a recent review, the loyalty program has been expanded to include most grocery products, including milk and ice cream. This enhancement was made in response to valuable community feedback, and we thank members for their input in helping improve the program.

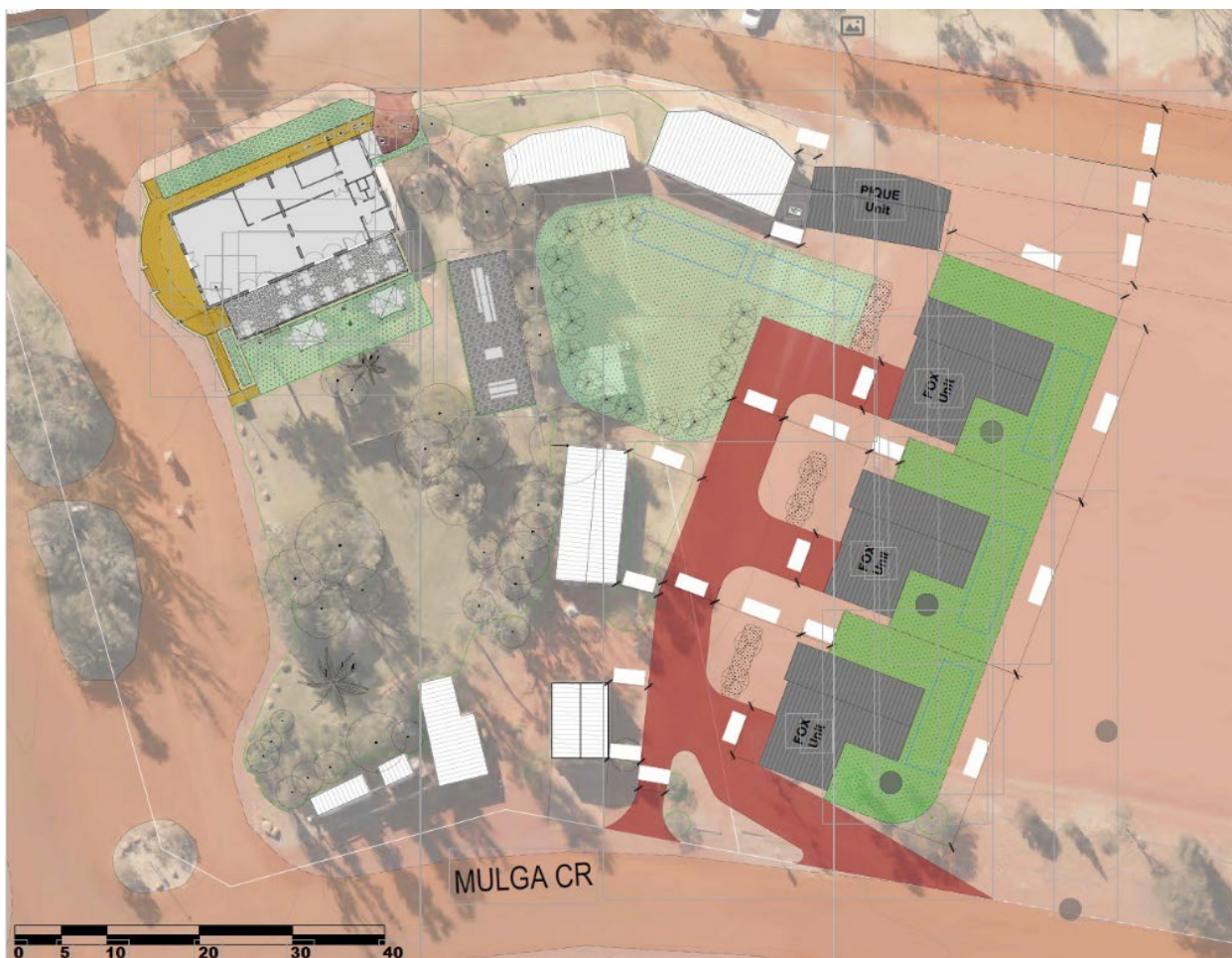
Building Works

Roadhouse Motel Rooms

Final Design of motel rooms has now been completed and will go into production shortly.

Key Worker Accommodation

Prebuild selections for key worker housing at the Roadhouse was completed with Fox Modular on Friday, 14 November for 5 new 2-bedroom dwellings. Variations have been prepared and once finalised, the buildings will move into production. Civil and septic plans are currently with the Environmental Health Officer for the required approvals, and Hosken Electrical has been advised of the development to assist with the supply of electricity to the sites, quotes are being sought for turf, irrigation and fencing works. Two dwellings are to be located on the corner of Kurara Way and Mulga Crescent with three in the roadhouse precinct as shown below



Swimming Pool Splash Pad Update

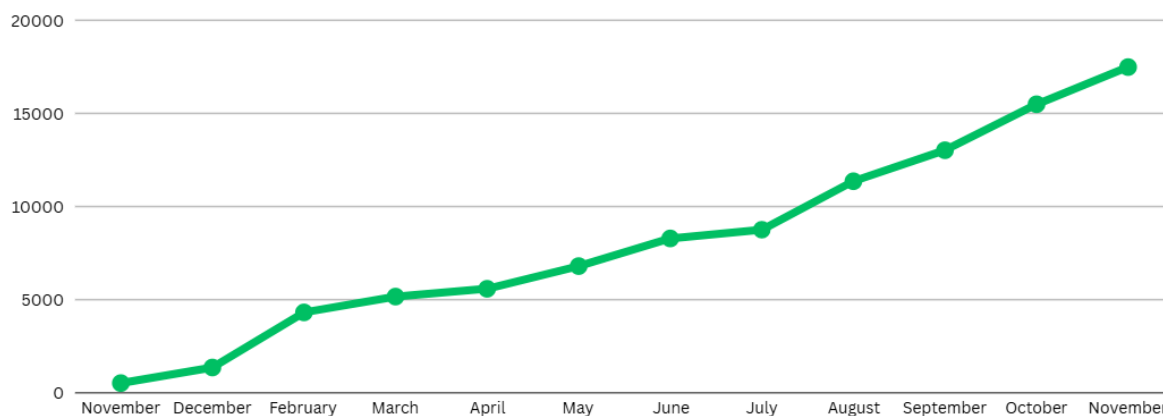
The Shire is progressing well toward having the pool and splashpad ready for opening at the annual Christmas Tree event. Both Rachel and Todd from the office have successfully completed the Aquatic Technical Officer Skill Set, which equips them to manage the facility safely. Their next steps involve applying these learnings to the specific requirements of our pool before accreditation can be finalised. This process has been highly technical, requiring interpretation of regulations and the development of detailed procedures, and we thank Rachel and Todd for their commitment. Water testing is scheduled for November 26th, and we anticipate receiving clearance from the Department of Health to proceed with the opening.

Swipe cards have now arrived for monitoring access to the pool facility, and a policy has been developed that clearly defines the audiences permitted to access the pool and outlines the process for community members to obtain access. This initiative ensures controlled entry, enhances safety, and provides a structured method for managing community use of the facility.

Containers for Change Recycling

Economic Objective 1	<i>To develop the region's economic potential to encourage families and businesses to stay in the area.</i>
Interpretive Centre	<i>Development of an Interpretive Centre was identified within the Tourism Development Strategies of the 2013 Strategic Community Plan.</i>
Tourism Development	<i>To promote and support a sustainable tourism industry in the Shire of Murchison.</i>
Environmental Objective 2	<i>To improve the sustainability of land use and improve the condition of the environment.</i>
Social Objective 3	<i>To develop, co-ordinate, provide and support services and facilities which enhance the quality of community life in the Shire by:</i> <i>Supporting and assisting in coordinating projects and events as required.</i> <i>Supporting community groups.</i>
Support for Community Groups	<i>Provision of Human Resources to assist community groups.</i>

Containers collected and donated to the Shire for Community Groups



The latest return of containers has seen the total number of recycled vessels reach 17,486 produced or donated to the shire that is a running total of \$1,748.60 going back to community initiatives. Thank you to all Shire residents for supporting the recycling program and changing the bin you put your rubbish in.

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>

On Tuesday, 5 November, Julie from Drylands Permaculture visited to share expertise on seed collection and native plant propagation within the settlement. Adam, Rachel, Alex, Erin, and Bec participated alongside Julie Firth and Nan Broad in this initiative. Together, the group successfully planted **242 tree seeds** and took numerous cuttings of species such as grevilleas and Eremophilas, with the goal of regenerating and repopulating garden areas throughout the community.



Communications

Civic Leadership Objective 4

To provide Good Governance to the Murchison Shire through:

*Regional collaboration where possible;
Detailed and professional administration;
High levels of accountability;
Compliance with statutory requirements;
High-quality forward planning, particularly for assets and finances;
Openness and transparency and enhanced consultation and public participation;
Provision of quality customer services, good financial management and pursuit of excellence in professional administration and communication.*

Strategies

Communication Strategies and more involvement with Pia Wadjari

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

Email Communications

- 1 6 Community Announcements
 - Christmas Tree and Pool Opening
 - Southern Rangelands Pastoral Alliance Workshops
 - Fire Safety Training with DFES
 - Mid West Development Commission Board Opportunity
 - Extraordinary Election Results
 - Murchison Monologue

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

Planned Communications

Bec and Rachel will soon commence the Kitchen Table Conversation series, which involves visiting each station and engaging directly with community members. The purpose of these conversations is to gain a deeper understanding of the Murchison community, including their current needs, expectations for engagement with the Shire, and opportunities for collaboration. This initiative aims to strengthen relationships and ensure that community priorities are reflected in future planning and service delivery.

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

Seconded: Cr

Carried/Lost

For

Against

18.2 Pastoral & Community Focus Approach

File:

Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer

Interest Declared: No interest to disclose

Date: 24 November 2025

Attachments: Nil

Matter for Consideration

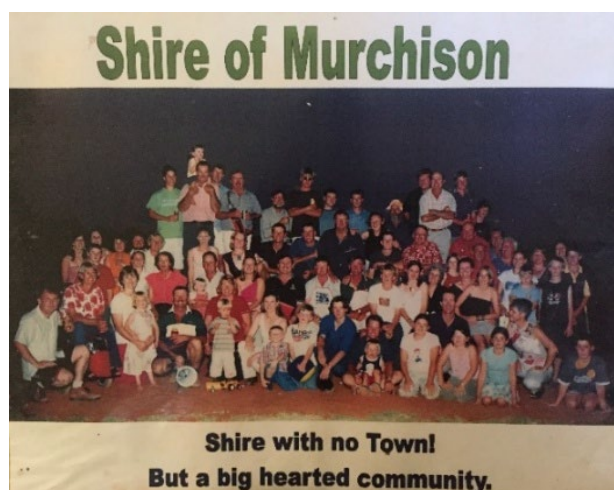
Update progress of a review of current Pastoral and Community focus approach

Background

Historical Community

As indicated in the following extracts from the *Murchison Shire's Organisational Rationale Recruitment Strategy Incorporating Workforce Plan adopted 22 May 2025* much has changed community wise since the establishment of the Shire in 1961.

The Settlement is the engine room for the entire operation of the Shire with all the people that reside in the Settlement either Shire employees or related to Shire employees.



Historically some of the physical works by way of new projects would have had a significant active and on occasions a physical contribution from local pastoral residents. Most community economic development actions were undertaken by community working groups, many of those in our pastoral sector with shire staff more or less recruited to run the Shires' operation.

The Murchison Monologue, vegetation plantings, cemetery planning layouts and rangelands walking trail are typical examples where the building works were assisted directly by local residents. Social life between stations was also

prominent with the Settlement becoming an increasing focal point.

Due to a range of factors including general societal changes, a decline in sheep production in favour of beef production, the need to have off farm income through divergence of use and some stations not operating for pastoral purposes the population has shrunk by some 75% from 397 to 106 since the establishment of the Shire in 1961.

The makeup of the Shire has also significantly altered

Shire Occupation	1961	2025
Owner Occupied Pastoral Stations	26	10
Owner Occupied Pastoral & Other uses		4
Stations externally owned & locally managed		8
CSIRO / SKA occupied Stations		2
Stations Crown Land Managed Stations		2
Shire Settlement		1
PIA Wajarri Settlement		1
Total Occupation	26	28

These net shifts in demographics has seen the Shire operate with less people those remaining with strong ties to the local community. This has led to an increasing and acute need for Shire Staff to underpin several operations through their employment or as volunteers for works and activities that were formerly undertaken by local pastoralists and residents. Maximising this "staff buy in" is critical to maintaining and developing the overall Shire and represents a significant point of difference compared to all other Shires.

Pastoral & Community Focus

At the October Meeting it was decided that the appointments of working groups would be deferred pending a review and that at the October Workshop that the Community Development Manager would undertake a wider pastoral "kitchen table" conversations with local pastoralists, ahead of potential wider community relationship review.

This was in part prompted as the 2026 International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralism represents a key opportunity to reinvigorate and take action to start to reverse the decline in the Pastoral Community and to guide the operation of the Shire to assist in policy and operational terms.

An integral part of this review also relates to the operations of the Murchison Sports Club, as the only separate Incorporated Association within the Shire, and Murchison Arts Council as the main Non-Incorporated Association within the Shire both of which are integral to the operations of the Murchison Community Centre. It is considered essential that this aspect be incorporated into the overall Pastoral & Community Focus Approach.

Although the Pastoral & Community Focus approach is largely operational, given its strategic importance it is considered appropriate that it be noted and endorsed, hence this Agenda Item. Progress will be outlined through future Community Development Reports.

Sustainability Implications

Environmental There are no known significant environmental considerations.

Economic There are potentially significant economic considerations.

Social There are potentially significant social considerations.

Strategic Implications

Murchison Shire Council Community Strategic Planas outlined in the vision and objectives as listed below

Vision Statement	<i>Working together to preserve the unique character of the Shire, supporting diverse and sustainable lifestyle and economic opportunities.</i>
Objectives and Strategies	<i>Description</i>
Economic Objective 1	<i>To develop the region's economic potential to encourage families and businesses to stay in the area.</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> <i>Provision of quality customer services, good financial management and pursuit of excellence in professional administration and communication.</i>

Policy Implications

Future policy implications will likely follow result

Financial Implications

Nil

Consultation

Community Manager, Works Manager and Previous Councillor Workshops in April, June and October 2025.

Recommendation

That the Council notes and endorses the Pastoral and Community Approach.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

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

19 ADMINISTRATION

19.1 Murchison Shire Information Statement 2025

File:	4.72
Author:	Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer
Interest Declared:	No interest to disclose
Date	23 November 2025
Attachments:	19.1.1 Murchison Shire Information Statement 2025

Matter for Consideration:

Council to consider accepting the Murchison Shire Information Statement 2025

Background

The Freedom of Information Act 1992 (FOI Act) created a general right of access to documents held by state and local government agencies. The FOI Act requires agencies, including local governments, to make available details about the kind of information they hold and enables persons to ensure that personal information held by government agencies about them is accurate, complete, up-to-date and not misleading.

Section 96 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 1992 requires each government agency, including local governments, to prepare and publish annually, an Information Statement that includes the following:

- ~ the Agency's Mission Statement.
- ~ details of legislation administered.
- ~ details of the agency structure
- ~ details of decision-making functions
- ~ opportunities for public participation in the formulation of policy and performance of agency functions.
- ~ documents held by the agency.
- ~ the operation of FOI in the agency.

Comment

It is the aim of the Murchison Shire to make information available promptly, at the least possible cost and wherever possible, documents will be provided outside the Freedom of Information (FOI) process.

Statutory Environment

Freedom of Information Act 1992

Local Government Act 1995 Division 7 Access to Information

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

This is a statutory function.

Policy Implications

Nil

Financial Implications

Nil

Consultation

Nil

Recommendation

That Council accepts the Murchison Shire Information Statement 2025 as presented and attached.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Council Decision

Moved: Cr

Seconded: Cr

Carried/Lost

For

Against

19.2 Commonwealth House of Representatives Local Government Inquiry

File:	14.19.6
Author:	Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer
Interest Declared:	No interest to disclose
Date	23 November 2025
Attachments:	19.2.1 House of Reps Local Gov Sustainability Inquiry 2026 Invite & Terms of Reference 19.2.2 Murchison Shire May 2024 Submission House of Reps Local Gov Sustainability Inquiry

Matter for Consideration

Submission to the Commonwealth's House of Representatives Standing Committee on Regional Development, Infrastructure and Transport 2026 inquiry into local government funding and fiscal sustainability.

Background

The Commonwealth's House of Representatives Standing Committee on Regional Development, Infrastructure and Transport has announced a new inquiry examining local government sustainability. Copy of details of the Inquiry including Terms of Reference is attached.

Broadly speaking the Committee is Transport is examining the funding and financial sustainability of local government in Australia with a new terms of reference for the inquiry with the invitation noting that we had put a submission into the last federal parliament as per the attached.

Submissions close 3 February 2026.

Comment

As outlined in the precis below in the new Terms of Reference is far more focused than the previous one and thereby offers up opportunities to convey our experiences in additional areas that were not previously covered. The material requested as an addition to what we have previously submitted meaning that the number of points made provide additional context.

2026 House of Reps Inquiry	2026 House of Reps Inquiry
<i>Local government funding and fiscal sustainability</i>	<i>Local Government matters as listed</i>
Interactions between Governments ~ both directly and through Commonwealth-state agreements ~ legislative and policy frameworks underpinning Commonwealth financial support to local government	~ The financial sustainability and funding of local government. ~ The changing infrastructure and service delivery obligations of local government. ~ Any structural impediments to security for local government workers and infrastructure and service delivery. ~ Trends in the attraction and retention of a skilled workforce in the local government sector, including impacts of labour hire practices. ~ The role of the Australian Government in addressing issues raised in relation to the above.
Identification of all Funding Sources including sources of funding received by local government from the Australian Government and state/territory governments, including: ~ Untied grants, tied grants, specific purpose grants, ~ revenue sharing, arrangements ~ Emergency disaster recovery ~ Local government own source revenue ~ One off funding	
Impacts and Effectiveness ~ Evaluate how funding arrangements, including indexation freezing, influence the financial sustainability, service delivery capacity and infrastructure investment of local governments. ~ Consider whether existing funding mechanisms are addressing the evolving responsibilities of local governments. ~ Identify barriers to infrastructure service delivery, including trends in attracting and retaining a skilled workforce, impediments to security for local government workers and impacts of labor hire practices.	

2026 House of Reps Inquiry	2026 House of Reps Inquiry
~ Explore opportunities to improve productivity and coordination of local government.	
Previous Inquiry ~ Consider evidence provided to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Regional Development, Infrastructure and Transport of the 47th Parliament Inquiry into Local Government Sustainability	
Other relevant matters	Other relevant issues

I am of the view that given we have already conveyed our unique our remote location and unique operation a local perspective view could be of benefit to the Inquiry, and it would be remiss if we didn't again contribute.

In this instance a "collective" sector view is not necessarily being asked for with a "local" touch more important. I would think that our specific local experiences both positive and negative in relation to disaster recovery arrangements, rating, economic development interactions would be enlightening and that we could offer some solutions. How much impact we may have is unknown. Perhaps it would be minimal but certainly something is better than nothing.

The last submission was, given our limited resources was on reflection pretty good.

Whilst the closing date is some two plus months away there is the Christmas-New year period involved and whilst we ordinarily not scheduled to meet in the new year until late until late February 2026, appropriate of sessions arrangements could be made.

Recommendation

That in relation to the in relation to the Commonwealth's House of Representatives Standing Committee on Regional Development, Infrastructure and Transport 2026 inquiry into local government funding and fiscal sustainability, that Council resolves that the Chief Executive Officer, with input from all councilors, develop a draft submission for collective sign off out of session by the Shire President, and that once endorsed that this be submitted.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

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

19.3 Christmas Settlement Arrangements

File:

Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer

Interest Declared: No interest to disclose

Date 23 November 2025

Attachments: Nil

Matter for Noting

Council to note arrangements within the Murchison Settlement for the annual Christmas period.

Background

In previous years the well-established practice was that the Office was closed for a two-week period with Office staff returning the day after New Years Day. A similar closure period applied to Roadhouse staff. This was well received by staff with minimal impact on the Councils operation.

Comment

This year however we again have Office staff available and willing to go on leave a few days later after the last freight run for the year prior to Christmas. As New Years Day falls on a Thursday it has been agreed that in the Office will reopen on Monday following the first weekend in January. A number of staff will be around the Settlement during the Christmas / New Year period and are available for local emergencies if required.

Summary of arrangements as follows.

- ~ Office will be closed over the Christmas / New Year Period from Friday 19 December 2025 reopening on Monday 5 January 2025.
- ~ Murchison Oasis Roadhouse and Caravan Park will be closed from 4pm Tuesday 23 December 2025 and reopen on Monday 29 December 2025. Normal summer and public holiday hours will otherwise apply. Public toilets will remain open, and fuel will be available with 24-hour access to fuel bowser with card swipe facility.
- ~ Last freight run for 2025 will be on Thursday 18 December 2025, with the freight run recommencing in 2026 on Thursday 8 January 2026 .

For Information

20 CEO ACTIVITY REPORT

File:

Author: Bill Boehm – Chief Executive Officer

Interest Declared: No interest to disclose

Date: 23 November 2025

Attachments: Nil

General

The following update of activities is provided.

Date	Activity
21.10.2025	Workshop Work. Timesheets. Administration
22.10.2025	Election Work. General Administration
23.10.2025	Council Meeting and Workshop. Council Minutes. Catch up meeting with Works Manager & Community Manager
24.10.2025	Council Minutes. Election Work. Teams meeting with Community Manager & UDLA regarding site layouts for accommodation units. Meetings with Community Manager & Recreation Tourism Support Officer
25.10.2025	Council Minutes. Election work
27.10.2025	Works Tool Box Meeting. Meeting with Works Manager & Community Manager. Election Work. Audit Work & Administration
28.10.2025	Audit Work. Miscellaneous Mining Licence Work
29.10.2025	Touch base via phone with Meg Officer. General Administration. Catch up and briefings with Works Manager & Community Manager. Audit queries
30.10.2025	General Administration. Audit queries. MEG Work.
31.10.2025	LRCIP Phase 4 and Audit Work. Catch up with Works Manager. General Administration
1.11.2025	General Administration. Annual Report Work. Catch up with Works Manager
2.11.2025	Catch up with Cr P Squires
3.11.2025	Works Timesheet checks. Annual Report Work. General Administration
4.11.2025	Annual Report Work. MEG Work. General Administration. Catch up with Shire President
5.11.2025	General Administration. Fuel Sheets. Roads to Recovery Annual Report. Catch up with Rick Ryan DFES
6.11.2025	Fuel Review. Annual. Report Work. Audit Work. General Administration.
7.11.2025 to 9.11.2025	Annual Report Work. General Administration.
10.11.2025	Annual Report Work. WALGA Country Zone Report. Touch base via phone with Shire President
11.11.2025	Annual Report Work. WALGA Country Zone Report.
12.11.2025	Annual Report Work. MRWA Work. Catch up with Works Manager
13.11.2025	TOIL
14.11.2025	TOIL Annual Report Work. Remote attendance MRWA Regional Roads Group Meeting
15.11.2025	Annual Report Work
16.11.2025	Xmas Tree Newsletter
17.11.2025	Xmas Tree Newsletter. November Agenda Work. Emails Roads to Recovery and Audit Review Work. TOIL
18.11.2025	Meeting with Athena Resources. General Administration. TOIL
19.11.2025	Travel to Cue for MEG & WALGA Country Zone Meetings. TOIL
20.11.2025	Attend MEG & CDO Meetings
21.11.2025	Attend Murchison Country Zone. Travel back to Murchison
22.11.2025 to 24.11.2025	Agenda Work & Administration

Recommendation

That Council note the CEO's Activity Report.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

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

21 OTHER ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

Nil

22 MEETING CLOSURE

The Shire President closed the meeting at