

Murchison Country Zone of WALGA

Shires of –ABN 75 305 122 944

Cue
Meekatharra
Mount Magnet
Murchison
Sandstone
Yaloo



MINUTES

MURCHISON COUNTRY ZONE

OF

Western Australian Local Government Association

Friday 1 May 2020 9.30am



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Murchison Country Zone of WALGA

Shires of –
Cue
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Yalgoo

ABN 75 305 122 944



Ordinary Meeting, Hosted on Zoom on Friday 1 May 2020

1. Opening

The President Cr Ross Foulkes-Taylor opened the meeting.

2. Attendance

2.1 Delegates

Cr Rosasco Foulkes-Taylor	Zone President Shire of Murchison
Cr Jorgen Jensen	President Mount Magnet Shire
Cr Ross Pigdon	President Shire of Cue
Cr Les Price	Deputy Zone President Shire of Cue
Cr Beth Walton	President Shire of Sandstone
Cr Carol Hodshon	Shire of Sandstone
Cr Harvey Nichols	Shire of Meekatharra
Mr Roy McClymont	CEO Shire of Meekatharra
Mr John Read	Acting CEO Shire of Yalgoo (Proxy)
Mr Bill Boehm	CEO Shire of Murchison (Proxy)
Cr Cecilia Kelly	Shire of Mt Magnet (Proxy)

2.2 Observers

Ms Samantha Appleton	Executive Officer Murchison Country Zone
Mr Rob Madson	CEO Shire of Cue
Mr Kelvin Matthews	CEO Shire of Mount Magnet
Mr Harry Hawkins	CEO Shire of Sandstone

2.3 Visitors

WALGA

Mayor Tracey Roberts JP
Mr Tony Brown

President WALGA
Executive Manager Governance &
Organisational Services

Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries

Mr Richard Malacari
Darrelle Merritt

Manager Midwest Gascoyne
Principal Strategy Officer LG Bill

2.4 Apologies

Cr James McGorman
Cr Emma Foulkes-Taylor
Cr Greg Payne
Cr Gail Trenfield

Shire of Mount Magnet
Shire of Murchison
President Shire of Yalgoo
Shire of Yalgoo

3. Official Opening of Conference

The President Cr R Foulkes Taylor declared the conference open at 9.30am and welcomed those present.

4. Confirmation of the Minutes

4.1 Confirmation of Minutes – Ordinary Meeting 22 November 2019

Comment

Minutes of the meeting held 22 November 2019 have been circulated to Member Shires.

Recommendation

That the Minutes of the Zone Meeting held 22 November 2019 be confirmed.

RESOLUTION – Moved: Cr Price Seconded: CEO Read

That the Minutes of the Zone Meeting held 22 November 2019 be confirmed with one amendment to item 2.1.

Carried 11/0

5. Election of Delegates

5.1 Representative and Deputy Representative to Midwest Suicide Prevention Steering Group Term Expires Oct 2021

Background

The Murchison Country Zone of WALGA has been approached to nominate a standing invitee to attend meetings of the Midwest Suicide Prevention Steering Group.

Attachments

Midwest Suicide Prevention Steering Group - Terms of Reference July 2019

Comment

The purpose of the group is:

- To support regional planning for suicide prevention and postvention, and its delivery and evaluation.

- To provide advice about the Midwest (including Murchison and Gascoyne) Suicide Prevention plan and its delivery and evaluation to the Midwest Suicide Prevention Governance Group

The terms of reference for the group and nomination forms for a delegate and deputy are in the attachment to this item. Nominations will be taken at the meeting.

In the absence of nominations being received for the delegate positions in the January email poll, this is being brought to this meeting. The Executive Officer of the Zone is currently acting as delegate.

Nominations

The following written nomination was received for the position of Representative to the Midwest Suicide Prevention Steering Group to November 2021.

- Cr Cecelia Kelly Shire of Mount Magnet

DECLARATION

That:

Cr Cecilia Kelly Shire of Shire of Mount Magnet

be elected as the Representative of the Murchison Country Zone to the Midwest Suicide Prevention Steering Group to November 2021.

The following written nomination was received for the position of Deputy Representative to the Midwest Suicide Prevention Steering Group to November 2021.

- Ms Tracy Bachraty Shire of Cue

DECLARATION

That:

Ms Tracy Bachraty Shire of Cue

be elected as the Deputy Representative of the Midwest Suicide Prevention Steering Group to November 2021.

Midwest Suicide Prevention Steering Group

Terms of Reference July 2019

1. TITLE

Midwest Suicide Prevention Steering Group.

2. PURPOSE

To support regional planning for suicide prevention and postvention, and its delivery and evaluation.

To provide advice about the Midwest (including Murchison and Gascoyne) Suicide Prevention plan, its delivery and evaluation to the Midwest Suicide Prevention Governance Group.

3. ROLE AND FUNCTION

The priority functions are to offer analysis and guidance, particularly with respect to the delivery of a systems-based, evidence-based approach with an emphasis on:

- Responding to any recommendations from the Midwest Suicide Prevention Governance Group
- Contributions to, and the use of, qualitative and quantitative data from all members to inform planning.
- Suicide prevention training and training gaps, to be discussed with WACHS and NGOs
- Support communities to develop their own strategies, programs and services leading to community specific responses.
- Developing, implementing and reviewing an effective suicide postvention response for the region.
- Coordinated, comprehensive and ongoing support to identify and respond to barriers and enablers, for the successful implementation of suicide prevention activities.

4. DELIVERABLES

Four monthly progress reports to the Midwest Suicide Prevention Governance Group.

5. SUPPORT STAFF and COSTS

The Group is supported by a Chair, shared in equal parts by Manager Mental Health & Community Alcohol Drug Service (WACHS-Midwest) and Program Manager for Suicide Prevention WA (WAPHA).

The Group is supported by a Secretariat function, shared in equal parts by Mental Health Promotion Coordinator (WACHS-Midwest) and Coordinator, Suicide Prevention Trial Midwest (WAPHA).

The WACHS and WAPHA Coordinators will attend the meetings to speak to operational workplan matters and to provide practice and coordination advice. The coordinator positions in suicide prevention in the Midwest are:

TOR Midwest Suicide Prevention Steering Group v17072019

- WACHS – Mental Health Promotion Coordinator

- WAPHA – Project Coordinator, Suicide Prevention Trial (Midwest)

The costs associated with the conduct of Steering Group, such as lived experience participation payments, catering etc., will also be shared in equal parts by WAPHA and WACHS Midwest.

6. MEMBERSHIP

Membership consists of a core group of members who attend every meeting:

- WACHS Midwest Mental Health and Community Alcohol and Drug Service – Regional Manager
- WAPHA – Program Manager for Suicide Prevention (WA)
- Mental Health Commission – Senior Project Officer, Community Programs
- Geraldton Regional Aboriginal Medical Service (GRAMS) – CEO
- Department of Communities (Child Protection and Family Services) – District Director
- Department of Communities – Director Regional Coordination
- Headspace Geraldton – Manager
- Department of Education – Lead School Psychologist
- WA Police Force – District Superintendent
- National Indigenous Australia Agency – Regional Manager
- Representative for Non-Government Organisations – Manager, Mission Australia - Midwest Gascoyne
- Representative for General Practitioners
- Two Representatives of persons with lived experience

Other interested parties are welcome to attend from time to time, either as one-off invitee or as a regular “standing” invitee. Standing invitees could include representatives from Local Government Country Zones.

7. MEETINGS

The Group will initially meet bi-monthly on 4th Wednesday of the month, and thereafter as decided by the Group.

8. QUORUM

A minimum number of members for a quorum is 50% of members.

6. WA Local Government Association

6.1 WALGA President



Welcome

I was very pleased and honoured to be elected President of WALGA on Wednesday 4 March and sincerely thank my fellow State Councillors for their support. It was exactly one week later that the COVID-19 pandemic was declared and the world as we know it, suddenly changed, resulting in an unbelievable, fast paced first 2 months in the role.

As you are aware, WALGA has been extremely active in representing the sector as we respond to the COVID-19 challenges and I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the hard work and important advocacy that we have undertaken.

The CEO and I have been strongly lobbying both State and Commonwealth leaders, advocating for sector outcomes, including the following issues;

- Communicating the State Council decision to the Premier, in relation to the significant contribution of Local Government in supporting their communities, including a suite of actions, for those members with the capacity to do so, to undertake in response to COVID-19
- To the State Treasurer, seeking consideration of a range of State measures required to assist the sector in delivering a net zero rate, fees and charges increase across the sector
- To the Commonwealth Treasurer, Commonwealth Minister for Local Government, State Minister for Local Government, leader of the Opposition and the leader of the WA Nationals, and the WA Branch Secretary of the Australian Services Union on the need for JobKeeper eligibility to include Local Government employees
- To the Minister for Local Government, seeking a safety net for those who default on their rate payments in the 2020/21 financial year
- To the Minister for Commerce, seeking a freeze on a range of regulations relative to fast tracking processing times for building applications
- To the Minister for Planning, highlighting the exceptional performance of the sector in progressing development applications

- To the Minister for the Environment to increase hypothecation of the waste levy to fast track investment in waste and recycling infrastructure
- To the WA Valuer General and the Minister for Lands on the need to defer the revaluation of land until the 2021-22 financial year
- To the Office of the Auditor General on the need to defer all performance audits for 2020-21, to defer by six months Local Government financial and performance audits, and to freeze auditing costs for 2020-21
- To both Federal and State Governments seeking commitments that ongoing grant funding arrangements including Roads to Recovery, Financial Assistance Grants, State Roads Funds to Local Government, Black Spot Programs etc will continue to be funded post 30 June, following the decision to defer Federal and State 2020-21 Budgets until October 2020.

I am pleased to advise that we have achieved some success, in a short period of time. I also acknowledge the willingness of the State Government to work with WALGA on identifying and removing barriers to enable a more agile sector response. However there is still more to do. Highlights of our success include the following key legislative and regulatory amendments;

Local Government (Administration) Regulations

In relation to Council meetings, the Local Government sector successfully advocated for amendments to the Local Government Administration Regulations to allow Council meetings to be held electronically. These amendments were gazetted in late March 2020.

Local Government (Functions and General) Regulations

The Functions and General Regulations have been amended to increase the tender threshold to \$250,000.

Also removing the requirement to publicly invite tenders during a state of emergency for the supply of goods or services associated with a state of emergency and a contract renewal or extension of no more than 12 months when the original contract is to expire within three months.

Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations

The Financial Management Regulations have been amended to remove the requirement to give public notice during a state of emergency, for the purpose of responding to the emergency, when:

- Repurposing financial reserves
- Borrowing money
- Changing the use of borrowed money

Local Government (Long Service Leave) Regulations

Amendments to the Long Service Leave Regulations will:

- Clarify that long service leave will continue to be accrued during any period of absence from duty due to the employer's response during a state of emergency
- Allow long service leave to be taken in two or more separate periods and

- Allow employees to access long service leave during a state of emergency if they have completed at least seven years of continuous service.

I would strongly encourage you to look at the State Council agenda item on WALGA's COVID-19 response, that outlines the commercial development initiatives that directly support the sector in this time of need.

I understand how critical, effective communication is during times of crisis. Accordingly the CEO and I have initiated daily updates that summarise the key developments to ensure the sector is well briefed. In addition WALGA is running weekly webinars with Ministers and senior Agency representatives across a range of key State Government portfolios.

PRESIDENT'S CONTACTS

From the 4 March to 6 May 2020 period, contacts that have occurred or are scheduled to take place prior to the March State Council meeting are as follows:

State Government Relations

- Hon David Templeman MLA, Minister for Local Government; Heritage; Culture and the Arts
 - COVID-19 Briefings x2
 - LG Partnership Agreement
- Hon Mia Davies MLA, Leader of the Nationals WA and Shane Love MLA, Deputy Leader of the Nationals WA
 - WALGA's 2020-21 State Budget submission.
 - State Government review of the State Industrial Relations System and implications for local governments.
 - The State Government's handling of Royalties for Regions funding, impacts on local governments and The Nationals WA policy to restore program's integrity if elected to Government next year.
 - Number and status of Department investigations in respective Local Governments.
 - Legislative Council inquiry in Local Government.
 - Cost burden for regional Local Governments to ensure rural centres have access to GP services.
 - Impact on Local Governments of regulations for short-stay accommodation industry.
 - Regional road safety, upgrades and funding.
 - Coastal erosion and its impacts on regional Local Governments

Zone Meetings

- Special State Council Meeting
- State Council briefing session video conference
- Kimberley Country Zone
- Murchison Country Zone Meeting
- North Metro Zone Meeting

Local Government Relations

- ALGA Board Meeting x 3
- LGIS Board Meeting x 2
- State Emergency Welfare Plan Briefing webinar

- Office of the Auditor General meeting
- Regional Capitals Alliance WA Meeting
- Finance and Services Committee Meeting
- ALGA Board Forum
- Lord Mayor of Hobart

Conferences, Workshops, Public Relations

- WA Women Hall of Fame event, Government House
- Webinar: Business Continuity Plan and Insurance Implications

As Local Governments we can all be proud of how we have responded to the pandemic and we all know that challenges will continue to face us, when we start to position ourselves to transition into recovery mode.

Please take care and keep safe.

The President addressed the meeting and congratulated Cr Price for his contribution as a member of State Council. She discussed issues related to Covid-19 and how it is affecting Local Government in Western Australia and took questions from the floor. Issue relating to the PATS scheme were also discussed with Cr Walton raising changes in eligibility related to travel outside of the region.

6.2 Zone Representative to State Council - Cr Les Price

Cr Price addressed the meeting. He has attended two State Council meetings and one special meeting of State Council since the last Zone meeting.

He has been circulating information from WALGA to members and acknowledged the excellent quality of the videos produced by WALGA.

There was a discussion of the State Government relying on WALGA and the Zones to implement the initiatives and suggestions of the State Government with the Advent of Covid-19.

Mental health concerns have been a developing issue with support available through online services and government agencies. It was recommended that community members look out for each other.

There are likely to be issues with outstanding rates and reduction in interest charges.

It is likely the current State of Emergency is likely to be extended.

The Government may need to look at assisting Local Governments with regard to the funding of deficits and additional borrowings. Projects may no longer be a priority. Audit costs will be frozen and there will be a relaxing of performance audits. It is recommended that Councils do not over extend themselves financially.

6.3 WALGA Status Reports

No items to report.

6.4 Agenda Briefs – WALGA Meeting 1 May 2020

Recommendation

That WALGA agenda items 5.1 to 5.2 be supported and agenda information items 6.1 to 6.4 be noted.

RESOLUTION

Moved Cr Jensen Seconded Cr R Foulkes-Taylor

That WALGA agenda items 5.1 to 5.2 be supported and agenda information items 6.1 to 6.4 be noted.

Carried 11/0

MURCHISON COUNTRY ZONE OF WALGA

FLYING AGENDA

WALGA STATE COUNCIL MATTERS FOR DECISION and NOTING

AT WALGA MEETING OF WEDNESDAY 6 May 2020

The following recommendations have been taken directly from the WALGA State Council Agenda for 6 May 2020 and which contains important detail of each item.

Each recommendation is followed by a direction to refer to the full WALGA State Council Agenda and 3 voting options. This is an editable Word Document so all that is required is to delete the 2 voting options you do not support and in the case of option 3 state your alternative recommendation.

Please note that this agenda will be included in our Zone Agenda for discussion on 1 May 2020 so no response is required until our meeting on the Friday 1 May 2020.

5. MATTERS FOR DECISION

5.1 Amendment to Third Party Appeal Rights – Preferred Model (06-03-01-0001 VJ)

By Vanessa Jackson, Policy Manager Planning and Improvement

Recommendation

1. That the proposed amendment to the Third Party Appeals Process Preferred Model, being that third parties in addition to Local Governments are able to make an appeal on decisions made by Development Assessment Panels, is not supported, and
2. That the proposed amendment to the Third Party Appeals Process Preferred Model, being that closely associated third parties in addition to Local Governments are able to appeal decisions made by the Western Australian Planning Commission and the State Administrative Tribunal, in addition to Development Assessment Panels, is not supported.

Executive Summary

- At the 2019 WALGA Annual General Meeting (AGM), a motion was carried to amend the existing Preferred Model for Third Party Appeal rights for decisions made by Development Assessment Panels.
- All Local Governments were contacted, seeking their views on a two part motion. The closing date for feedback was 28 February 2020.
- 35 Local Governments provided a response, 11 supported the motions, 19 did not support the AGM motions and 5 did not support any Third Party Appeal rights being introduced in WA.
- The 2019 WALGA AGM motion is therefore not supported.

Attachments

1. Responses to AGM motion:
[https://walga.asn.au/getattachment/Documents/Responses-to-2019-AGM-Motion_March-2020-\(1\).pdf?lang=en-AU](https://walga.asn.au/getattachment/Documents/Responses-to-2019-AGM-Motion_March-2020-(1).pdf?lang=en-AU)
2. Preferred model after May 2019 State Council meeting: ([report-2019](#))

Policy Implications

The current policy position is that the Association supports the introduction of Third Party Appeal rights for decisions made by Development Assessment Panels, with the Preferred Model endorsed at May 2019 State Council Meeting (44.4/2019).

5.2 Managing Lodging House Health Risks in WA (05-031-01-0001 BW)

By Bec Waddington, Policy Officer Community

Recommendation

That the submission to the Department of Health in response to the Managing Lodging House Health Risks in WA discussion paper be endorsed.

Executive Summary

- The *Public Health Act 2016* is progressing through a five-stage process of implementation and is currently at Stage 4. All regulations from the previous *Health Act 1911* will be repealed and replaced with new regulations at the commencement of Stage 5, which is anticipated to commence in 2021.
- The Department of Health released the 'Managing Lodging House Health Risks in WA' discussion paper for public comment with three options for consideration.
- WALGA's Submission discusses the Local Governments preference for Option C to regulate lodging houses under the Public Health Act using housing regulations

Attachment

WALGA Submission to Department of Health: Managing Lodging House Health Risks in WA (In State Council Agenda emailed to delegates)

Policy Implications

WALGA has previously made comment on the Public Health regulations; Construction Sites Facilities, Cloth Materials and Temporary Toilets Regulations (Resolution 139.7/2018) and Aquatic Facilities and Public Buildings (Resolution 15.3/2019) and Managing Public Health Risks Associated with Pesticides in WA (Resolution 131.FM/2019). This paper relates directly to Managing Public Health Housing Risks in WA, which WALGA recently made a submission on (Resolution 2.1/2020).

6. MATTERS FOR NOTING / INFORMATION

6.1 Submission Position Statement: Special Entertainment Precincts and Options Paper for Proposed Amendments to the Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997 (05-036-02-0022 VJ)

By Vanessa Jackson, Policy Manager Planning and Improvement

Recommendation

That State Council note the submission on Position Statement: Special Entertainment Precincts & the Options Paper for proposed amendments to the *Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997*.

Executive Summary

- The State Government prepared a position statement and options paper, which outlined possible planning and environmental approvals processes to manage noise within entertainment precincts.
- Three options were provided: Status Quo, agent of change and indoor assigned noise levels or establishment of a Special Control Area (SCA) for an entertainment precinct.
- The submission was due by 14 February 2020, consequently, the submission was processed through WALGA's interim submission process, and endorsed by State Council by Flying Minute.

Attachment

WALGA Submission - Position Statement: Special Entertainment Precincts & Options Paper for Proposed Amendments to the *Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997*.

<https://walgapip.ning.com/submissions/entertainment-precincts-position-statement-and-regulations-submis>

6.2 Submission on the Proposed Reforms to the Approval Process for Commercial Buildings (05-015-02-0005 VJ)

By Vanessa Jackson, Policy Manager Planning and Improvement

Recommendation

That State Council note the endorsed submission on the proposed reforms to the approval process for commercial buildings.

Executive Summary

- In December 2019, the State Government prepared a Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement (CRIS) for improvements to the commercial building approvals processes.
- The CRIS proposes 28 improvements, ranging from documentation requirements; performance solutions; fire authority consultation; engagement of building surveyors; third-party review of high-risk designs; variations to the design during construction; inspections of building work; material compliance; and the Building Commissioner's powers.
- The submission was due on 3 April 2020, consequently, the submission was processed through WALGA's interim submission process, and endorsed by State Council by Flying Minute on 1 April 2020.

6.3 Report Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) (01-006-03-0008 RNB)

By Rebecca Brown, Manager Waste and Recycling

Recommendation

That State Council note the resolutions of the Municipal Waste Advisory Council at its 26 February 2020 meeting.

Executive Summary

- This item relates to the MWAC meeting held on 26 February 2020, key outcomes of this meeting included:
 - Endorsement of the Submission on the Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement on phasing out certain waste exports
 - Endorsement of the Plastic Reduction Options for Local Government Paper.

6.4 Power Point Presentation for Discussion – Covid – 19 Health and Vulnerability Analysis

By Nebojsa Franich, Policy Manager Economics

This will be presented to the meeting for discussion. The presentation is also included in an attachment to the agenda for this meeting.

Mr Tony Brown spoke to the presentation.

It was also mentioned that LGIS the insurer will be distributing funds to members due to issues arising for Local Governments due to the current emergency.

7. Matters for Consideration

7.1 Financial Statements

Proposed by Executive Officer

Attachments Income & Expenditure – 1/07/19 to 31/03/2020

Comment

Refer Financial Statements on next page

31 March 2020

Reconciled balances of account as at 31 March 2020 –

Cheque Account (229 492)	\$18,260.77
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Recommendation

That the Financial Statements for the period 1 July 2019 to 31 March 2020 be received.

RESOLUTION **Moved: Cr Walton** **Seconded: Cr Hodshon**

That the Financial Statements for the period 1 July 2019 to 31 March 2020 be received.

Carried 11/0

MURCHISON COUNTRY ZONE FINANCIAL STATEMENT 1/07/2019 to 31/03/2020

Bank Balance (as Per B/S) 01/07/19

\$12,568.68

Income

Date	Source	Amount
18/07/2019	Shire of Cue – Subscription Fees	\$2,500.00
22/07/2019	Shire of Sandstone – Subscription Fees	\$2,500.00
25/07/2019	Shire of Mount Magnet – Subscription Fees	\$2,500.00
31/07/2019	Interest Paid	\$1.32
31/07/2019	Shire of Meekatharra – Subscription Fees	\$2,500.00
01/08/2019	Shire of Murchison – Subscription Fees	\$2,500.00
30/08/2019	Interest Paid	\$2.05
30/09/2019	Interest Paid	\$2.12
31/10/2019	Interest Paid	\$2.12
25/11/2019	Interest Paid	\$1.92
31/12/2019	Interest Paid	\$1.60
31/01/2020	Interest Paid	\$1.55
28/02/2020	Interest Paid	\$1.40
31/03/2020	Interest Paid	\$1.60
	Total Income to 31 March 2020	\$12,515.68

Payments

Date	Cheque [SA1][SA2][SA3] No	Payee	Description	Amount
200134	22/11/2019	S Appleton	EO Secretarial Costs	\$4,000.00
200135	22/11/2019	R Foulkes-Taylor	Expense Reimbursement	\$229.95
200136	22/11/2019	S Appleton	Expense Reimbursement	\$1,123.64
200137	22/11/2019	Murchison Club Hotel	Catering	\$1,470.00
		Total Expenditure to 31 March 2020		\$6,823.59

[SA4]

Reconciliation

Balance Bought Forward 01/07/2019	\$12,568.68
Add Income Received	\$12,515.68
Subtotal	\$25,084.36
Less Expenditure	-\$6,823.59
Balance	\$18,260.77
Balance as per Bank Statement 31 March 2020	\$18,260.77

7.2 Accounts Paid to Be Paid

Proposed by Executive Officer

Attachments Nil

Comment

Cheque	Date	Payee	For	Amount Incl GST
200138	01/05/2020	Cr R Foulkes-Taylor	Presidents Honorarium	\$600.00
200139	01/05/2020	Cr L Price	Deputy President and State Council Honorarium	\$930.00
200140	01/05/2020	Samantha Appleton	EO Secretarial Costs & Reimbursements	\$4,010.20
			Total	\$5,540.20

Recommendation

That the amounts listed above, cheque numbers 200138 to 200140 be paid for the period between 2 November 2019 and 1 May 2020.

RESOLUTION **Moved: CEO Boehm** **Seconded: CEO McClymont**

That the amounts listed above, cheque numbers 200138 to 200140 be paid for the period between 2 November 2019 and 1 May 2020.

Carried 11/0

7.3 Budget 2020 - 2021

Proposed by Executive Officer

Attachments Draft Income & Expenditure Statements for the 2019-20 year

Background

The 2019- 20 Budget was adopted at the May 2019 meeting. The Zone has usually considered the subscriptions for the new financial year in May, in preparation for member Shires own budgets.

Comment

The Zone estimated position for 2019/20 will be a small surplus. This is due to a reduction in expenditure caused by the cancellation of the in person meeting for May. It is suggested that Member Shire subscriptions be reduced to \$1,500.00 each, excluding GST for 2020/21 due to economic pressures associated with Covid - 19. As there are surplus funds held in the Zones bank account this will fund the projected deficit for the 2020/21 financial year due to the reduction of the Shire contributions.

The honorariums approved for 2019-20, which are now due to be paid, are –

- Zone President \$600
- Zone Deputy President \$400
- Zone Representative to WALGA \$530

Recommendation

That the draft Budget for 2020-21 be adopted, incorporating –

- a) Member Shire subscriptions of \$1,500.00 per Shire, excluding GST, and
- b) Honorariums be set at the same level as applied last year.
 - Zone President \$600
 - Zone Deputy President \$400
 - Zone Representative to WALGA \$530

AMENDED RESOLUTION **Moved: Cr Walton** **Seconded: Cr Hodson**

That the draft Budget for 2020-21 be adopted, incorporating –

- a) Member Shire subscriptions of \$2,500.00 per Shire, excluding GST, and**
- b) Honorariums to be set at –**
 - Zone President \$600**
 - Zone Deputy President \$400**
 - Zone Representative to WALGA \$530**

Carried 11/0

Murchison Country Zone of WALGA

Budget 2020-2021

Account	Budget 2019-20	Estimated Actual 2019-20	Budget 2020-21
Income			
General Subscriptions	15,000	15000	15,000
Interest Earned	20	20	20
Reimbursements	100		
Total Income	15,120	15,020	15,020
Expenditure			
Meeting Expenses Teleconferences Special Meetings & Workshops	4,000	1,700	4,000
Bank Fees & Charges	20	20	20
Reimbursable Expenses Unclassified Expenses (Minute Book)	100	100	100
Zone Representative Gratuities	1,530	1,530	1,530
Executive Officer Services	8,000	8,000	8,000
Executive Officer Reimbursements	2,000	1,200	2,000
Total Expenses	15,650	12,550	15,650
Net Income/(Loss)	(-530)	2,470	(-630)

7.4 Introduction of Internet Banking

Background

The Murchison Country Zone of WALGA delegates to consider the introduction of internet banking for its Community Solutions One account with Westpac account 229 492.

Comment

The Zone currently carries out its bill paying by way of a cheque book with two signatories required for every cheque. The current signatories are:

President – Mr Ross Foulkes-Taylor
Deputy President – Mr Les Price
Executive Officer – Ms Samantha Appleton

The use of the current payment method presents challenges with regard to the distances between signatories. This means that for payments to be made two signatories must meet or mail the cheques to each other, Also there is a lack of access to the current status of the account for the purposes of financial reporting with statements being issued on a quarterly basis. Additionally this method of payment is being used less and less and is likely to be eventually phased out with the need to do online payments being inevitable.

The proposal is for the nominated persons to be able to access internet banking, with any two of the three nominated persons being able to sign off on payments being made.

There also a recommendation to appoint two of the signatories as administrators of the account. This will enable the ability to add and remove signatories to the account should delegates or the Executive Officer no longer hold positions with the Zone.

Recommendation

That the Murchison Country Zone of WALGA support:

1. the introduction of online banking for Westpac Community Solutions One account 229 492;
2. that signatories to the online banking account 229 492 be:
 - a. President Ross Foulkes-Taylor
 - b. Deputy President Leslie Price
 - c. Executive Officer Samantha Appleton
3. that two (2) signatories be required for any payments being made from account 229 492;
and
4. that President Ross Foulkes-Taylor and Executive Officer Samantha Appleton be appointed administrators for the purposes of online banking.

That the Murchison Country Zone of WALGA support:

- 1. the introduction of online banking for Westpac Community Solutions One account 229 492;**
- 2. that signatories to the online banking account 229 492 be:**
 - a. President Ross Foulkes-Taylor**
 - b. Deputy President Leslie Price**
 - c. Executive Officer Samantha Appleton**
- 3. that two (2) signatories be required for any payments being made from account 229 492;
and**
- 4. that President Ross Foulkes-Taylor and Executive Officer Samantha Appleton be appointed administrators for the purposes of online banking.**

Carried 11/0

7.5 Transport Infrastructure Projects – Zone Support

Date of Report: 14 April 2020
Author: Roy McClymont
Chief Executive Officer, Meekatharra

Summary/Matter for Consideration

The Zone may consider supporting a joint submission to the Hon. Michael McCormack MP by the Murchison, Meekatharra and Upper Gascoyne Shires.

Attachments

Letter from the Hon M McCormack MP
Project submission – jointly by Shires of Murchison, Meekatharra and Upper Gascoyne.

Background

In early March 2020, the Hon M McCormack MP wrote to Councils seeking identification of shovel ready land transport infrastructure projects.

Comment

The Councils/CEO's of the Murchison, Meekatharra and Upper Gascoyne Shires have made a joint submission to the Hon. Michael McCormack MP with each Shire providing one project on the Meeka–Carnarvon or Carnarvon-Mullewa routes.

The three Shires seek the support of the Zone for their submission.

Recommendation

Option A

That the WALGA Murchison Country Zone supports the Shire of Murchison, Meekatharra and Upper Gascoyne's submission for joint road projects (est. total \$12.2M) to the Hon Michael McCormack MP for upgrades on the Meekatharra–Carnarvon and Carnarvon-Mullewa routes and that a letter be provided to the Shires to this effect.

OR

Option B

That the WALGA Murchison Country Zone declines to support the Shires of Murchison, Meekatharra and Upper Gascoyne's submission for a joint road project (est. total \$12.2M) to the Hon Michael McCormack MP for upgrades on the Meekatharra–Carnarvon and Carnarvon-Mullewa routes.

RESOLUTION**Moved: CEO McClymont****Seconded: Cr Nicholls**

That the WALGA Murchison Country Zone supports the Shire of Murchison, Meekatharra and Upper Gascoyne's submission for joint road projects (est. total \$12.2M) to the Hon Michael McCormack MP for upgrades on the Meekatharra–Carnarvon and Carnarvon-Mullewa routes and that a letter be provided to the Shires to this effect.

Carried 11/0

OFFICIAL



The Hon Michael McCormack MP

Deputy Prime Minister
Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development
Leader of The Nationals
Federal Member for Riverina

Ref: MS20-000401

Dear Mayors/Councillors

I am writing to seek your assistance in fast-tracking the delivery of land transport infrastructure projects on local roads.

Fast-tracking the delivery of critical road projects across Australia is key to driving jobs, strengthening the economy and getting people home sooner and safer.

Through the Infrastructure Investment Program, the Australian Government assists local governments to upgrade local roads, bridges and intersections. These investments, including through the Roads to Recovery Program, are critical to improving the safety and efficiency of local roads, and contributes to the prosperity and wellbeing of local economies.

I am seeking your assistance in the identification of any Australian Government land transport infrastructure projects for which construction could commence or be brought forward in the next three to six months. This could include new or existing projects with, or that would qualify for, Australian Government contribution. I would appreciate receiving your response in the attached template by 20 March 2020 through my Department at IIP@infrastructure.gov.au. The government will communicate the outcome of the process in due course.

I look forward to continuing to work closely with you to deliver infrastructure needed to ensure the ongoing stable contribution to the Australian economy.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael McCormack".

Michael McCormack

The Hon Michael McCormack MP
Parliament House Canberra | (02) 6277 7520 | minister.mccormack@infrastructure.gov.au Suite 2, 11-15
Fitzmaurice Street, Wagga Wagga NSW 2650 | michael.mccormack.mp@aph.gov.au

OFFICIAL

Local Government Land Transport Infrastructure Projects: Potential for Construction to Commence in 3-6 Months

Project name/description	Relevant Council	Total Project Cost	Australian Government contribution	Other contribution	Potential construction start date	Potential construction end date
Murchison – Gascoyne Remote Links						
A tripartite inter-regional transport link project being undertaken by the Shires of Meekatharra, Murchison and Upper Gascoyne. Jointly supported by the ten local authorities of the Murchison and Gascoyne Regions of Western Australia.						
Landor-Meekatharra Road Upgrade 27.6 kilometres of Landor Road to 7.2 metre wide Type 5 sealed standard.	Meekatharra	\$6,549,254	\$4,049,254	\$2,500,000	1 July 2020	30 May 2021
Dalgety-Landor Road Upgrade 15 kilometres of Landor / Dalgety Road to 7.2 metre wide Type 5 sealed standard.	Upper Gascoyne	\$2,844,000	\$1,896,000	\$948,000	1 July 2020	30 May 2021
Carnarvon- Mullewa Road Upgrade 12 kilometres of the Carnarvon-Mullewa Road to a 7.2 metre wide Type 5 sealed standard.	Murchison	\$2,847,500	\$1,898,000	\$949,500	1 July 2020	30 May 2021
Overall Project Totals		\$12,240,754	\$7,843,254	\$4,397,500		

8. Shire Reports

8.1 Shire of Yalgoo

As is the case with all local governments nationally, the focus of the Shire of Yalgoo over the past several weeks has been dealing with the challenges of coping with COVID-19 and the national state of emergency.

The Shire of Yalgoo has introduced the following measures in response to the COVID-19 state of emergency:

Closure of the Shire Office to the public except for vehicle licensing services and matters of importance that require attention.

Most Shire administration staff are working from home with laptops and internet access allowing staff to fully access all of the Shire's databases and email facility.

Closure of the Shire's Arts & Culture Centre and the cancelling of all workshops and planned community development activities.

Closure of the Yalgoo Caravan Park to tourists, etc. allowing minimal permanents to remain accommodated.

Cancelling of the Yalgoo Races due to be held on 2 May 2020 as well as the Yalgoo Race Ball.

All meetings including Council meetings are conducted by tele/video conferencing.

Public education of the requirements and measures to be observed in minimising the COVID-19 spread.

Education and observance by all Shire staff/employees regarding hygiene and social distancing.

No Shire employees have been stood down or laid off.

In the interests of preserving cash flow consideration is being given to postponing certain budgeted capital projects.

The Shire has informally agreed to freeze any rate increases in the 2020/21 financial year, however it will be introducing the rating of mining infrastructure at five mining operations within the Shire of Yalgoo, with Ministerial approval expected very soon.

The Shire of Yalgoo was impacted on 24 – 28 February 2020 by severe storm and flash flooding activity resulting in DFES activating AGRN 903 under its Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements. The Shire's road construction crew as well as an earthmoving contractor are currently engaged on the reinstatement work, which work will fully engage our road construction workforce and the contractor up until the 19 June 2020.

JOHN READ

Acting Chief Executive Officer

Shire of Yalgoo - Where the Outback Starts!

8.2 Shire of Mount Magnet



Activity Report – May 2020

The current COVID 19 situation has affected the Shire of Mount Magnet the same as it has with all other Councils in WA. The Council has closed all public facilities in accordance with the government COVID 19 Directions that include the public library, the Visitor Centre, the caravan park, all parks and ovals, public toilet facilities as well as the recreation centre, swimming pool and ANZAC Hall.

In this regard this Activity Report is brief.

Projects

- Council is completing projects it had already commenced before the COVID 19 situation. These have included completing the Museum Winder shed extension where BBRF funding was received in 2019, the renovation and installation of new ablutions at the Caravan Park and where the old ablutions have been renovated and will be relocated to the Mount Magnet town cemetery.
- Mount Magnet airport runway study - completed
- Mount Magnet Entry Statement Walls - completed
- Murchison Geo-Tourism Plan – completed with member Councils and MWDC considering utilizing the minor remaining surplus of the project for an updated 'App'. Next stage of the Murchison Geo Tourism project to be considered and discussed.

Human Resources

- Councils Visitor Centre Officer has recently resigned. Given the current closure of the Visitor Centre for the foreseeable future, no replacement is planned at this stage.
- Council has recently replaced its grader/plant operator following the departure of long serving employee Mr Des O'Brien.
- Council appointed 2 outdoor staff from casual to permanent status to replace 3 outdoor employees who have departed the organization that now brings a total of 7 permanent employees and 1 casual outdoor employee.

Governance/Finance

- Audit - Councils 2019/20 audit was completed in December 2019 and the Electors Meeting was held on the 3rd of February 2020.

- Regulation 17 Review – the required review of Regulation 17 (Local Government Audit Regulations 1996) was undertaken by Civic Legal in February 2020 and completed by early April 2020.
- Rates Freeze – in response to the COVID 19 situation and the effect this will have on the community, Council resolved at its ordinary meeting dated 8/4/20 to freeze all increases to its fees & charges (excluding statutory) and its residential, pastoral, commercial and industrial rates for the 2020/21 financial year. Council also resolved to suspend all unnecessary expenditure on capital projects and has requested WA Treasury to immediately suspend the Western Australian Treasury Corporation's borrowing guarantee fee and interest charge on Councils current loans.

Housing

Council has 1 x duplex Council staff housing vacant, however is using this residence for contractors only at this stage. All other staff housing is occupied and Council has recently leased another of its vacant Pensioner Units.

Civil Works and Plant

- Council is continuing with construction and maintenance roadworks on Wondinong (Cue Paynesville) Road.
- Maintenance grading work continues on the Mt Farmer in accordance with the Road Access and Maintenance Agreement between Council and Gascoyne Resources.
- RRG projects for the 2019/20 continue.
- Council has continued with its minor plant replacement program for the 2019/20 year with the purchase of mowers, whipper snippers etc.

Tourism

The 2020 tourism season has virtually ceased. The scheduled 2020 Astro Rocks Fest (September) has been cancelled as well as the scheduled Mount Magnet races.

Community Activities

Minimal community activities occurring due to COVID 19 situation. The Mount Magnet Memorial Swimming Pool closed for the 2019/20 season on the 20th of March 2020 due to COVID 19 Directions.

Thank you

Kelvin Matthews
Chief Executive Officer

8.3 Shire of Murchison



COVID-19

Like everyone a fair bit continues to change as we in Murchison respond to the ever changing COVID-19 environment. Council has formally articulated our overriding responsibility is to act to protect our citizens and community by taking practical and common sense steps to help prevent, control, or abate the public health risk presented in COVID-19 by limiting its rapid spread.

As requested by the State Government, Council agreed to freeze current rate levels for the 2020/21. We also want to support our local staff who we value highly and have reinforced that all jobs are safe. Sick leave provisions will be adjusted to recognise the difficulties that may arise over the next few months.

We have also expanded our works program by bringing forward projects that can stimulate the local economy and hopefully provide some lasting benefits for the community. This includes several road projects (an initial \$420k) and building works in the Murchison Settlement that have been on the books for some time. Our Shire will strike a reasonable balance between cranking up fairly significant shorter term spending while not leaving ourselves in a weak financial position when conditions pick up again.

The Council Library will be closed to members of the public and the Murchison Museum Committee are also closing the Museum and the usual volunteer caretakers won't be coming this year. For the foreseeable future Council Meetings will be conducted remotely. What few events we had have been cancelled.

Council discussed various specific needs associated with the operation of the Murchison Oasis Roadhouse through the COVID-19 period given that most customer service contact outlets have all but closed and agreed to reduced hours and a minor support package as well as bringing forward some operational improvements. Meanwhile the Caravan Park will remain closed to members of the public through the COVID-19 period but, can remain for open for use by contractors that are performing works within the Murchison Shire as well as for emergency situations. This will be reassessed as circumstances change.

Works

This year Council commissioned a review of our entire road network incorporating a physical inspection as well as pictorial recording. A long term sealing program was also formalised with year 1 works of around \$420k being recently completed as part of this year's works program.

The Councils/CEO's of the Murchison, Meekatharra and Upper Gascoyne Shires have also made a joint submission to the Hon. Michael McCormack MP as part of a potential

economic stimulus to fast track delivery of land transport infrastructure projects; with each Shire providing one project on the Meeka–Carnarvon or Carnarvon-Mullewa routes. We have also put in a separate local submission.

Council is in the process of putting out a \$10.6m flood works package for Flood 6 works (April 2019 event) out to tender and we have a small potential allocation of around \$425k associated for Cyclone Damien. Council has also agreed in principle to add other remedial works in the mix as part of the scope of works.

We have recently purchased a new Cat 150G Grader for our Maintenance Crew and we are well advanced with respect to having two new staff houses arrive in the Murchison Settlement in the next month or so.

The COVID-19 situation has caused a delay in receiving two new Cummins Diesel Gen sets for the Settlements Power Supply from overseas but fortunately local staff have been able to nurse the existing gensets through a longer period than was envisaged. We have also been working with a potential partner, who with Council support, has lodged an application for funds under the Microgrids 2019-20 Regional and Remote Communities Reliability Fund to analyse and design a suitable long term solution to potentially deliver a solar / diesel back up system.

Staff

The Murchison Shire has a very small full time staffing complement comprising six (6) management / administration and eight (8) construction / maintenance. Major changes in personnel in 2018/19 have now been consolidated with four new personnel; three of which are new to local government now settling in and working constructively. Auditors Report and a range of other reports provided over the past 6 months have been positively received by Council.

Our construction and maintenance crews continue to work productively and in a cooperative fashion. Following a retirement Lou Bavoillot has been appointed a new grader driver to the road maintenance crew. From all accounts our crews were keen to start work following the Christmas break with 10km of resheet works at the upper end of the Shire now being successfully completed.

Branding

Following around 12 month's work, with the assistance of graphic designers Identity Perth, Cr Emma Foulkes-Taylor and Frances Pollock have finalised a new logo. This was presented at the February Council Meeting with Council adopting the "M" logo and associated Murchison Shire "*ancient land under brilliant skies,*" as shown.



New logo has been universally well received with Cr Emma Foulkes-Taylor and daughter Fran also preparing a U-Tube video which is worth a view.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6q7R0KiYUsQ>

Bill Boehm

Chief Executive Officer

8.3 Shire of Sandstone



Activity Report April 2020

Human Resources

Unfortunately we have lost another Works Supervisor and are currently advertising for a replacement. The shire works crew is now at full capacity however one truck driver is still on workers compensation but a former employee who had retired has returned to work on a temporary basis to fill that position.

The corona virus has forced the closure of the caravan park, visitors centre and library however all staff continue to be employed albeit some of them on reduced summer hours. All other parts of the shire operations are continuing as usual.

Road Works and Equipment

The 2019/20 road program is continuing with re-sheeting works on the Paynes Find Road starting late April. This project has been moved to a section closer to the Sandstone townsite as due to COVID-19 concerns accommodation was not available in Paynes Find and the project was too far out for daily commuting.

All plant purchases for the year have been completed with the recent delivery of a new CAT grader for the construction crew. Other purchases this year were a new Kenworth prime mover, a CAT multi tyred roller, a new community bus and several light vehicles.

Buildings

A new shower/laundry block has been ordered for the old school site which when installed will complete the development of this site as a dormitory style accommodation camp.

Council resolved to sell the old police house by private treaty with real estate agent the Professionals Geraldton engaged to sell it on behalf of the shire although this has also been put on hold due to COVID-19

Tourism

Like most tourism destinations around the state Sandstone has been very quiet with very few tourists visiting due to the COVID-19 pandemic. With an older demographic of potentially vulnerable people living in the shire Council was proactive closing the caravan park and Visitor Centre before the government mandated it. All other tourist infrastructure like the Water Park were also closed to discourage visitors and keep the town virus free.

Other Projects

Bowling Green

Brick paving around the new bowling green has been completed thanks to a Stronger Communities Grant from Durack MP Melissa Price. Additional fencing to protect the green and some shaded seating at each end will be erected shortly to complete the project.

Pioneer Park

Works at Pioneer Park on the corner of Payne and Oroya Streets are continuing with swimming pool type fencing to keep visitors from touching the exhibits, and reticulation for the proposed gardens to be installed in the near future.

This project will showcase relics from an earlier time and be a welcome attraction for locals and visitors alike.

Harry Hawkins
Chief Executive Officer

8.5 Shire of Cue



May 2020 Report to Cue Parliament

Governance	<p>Council is moving to paperless meetings, with all Councillors issued with an iPad and dedicated email address for distribution of agendas, minutes and other official correspondence. The iPads have been particularly useful since the introduction of COVID-19 restrictions, with Council's April meeting conducted electronically using the Zoom videoconferencing platform.</p>
Admin	<p>Connection of a dedicated 100/100Mbps internet service to the Shire admin building has been completed, complementing the installation of a new VoIP telephone system and videoconferencing facilities.</p> <p>The admin office is closed, with public contact by phone or email only. Staff who are able to are working from home.</p>
Community Events	<p>Organisation of the return of Q-Fest on the Queen's Birthday long weekend in September 2020 had been progressing well until the COVID-19 emergency hit. This event has now been postponed, with a new date proposed for the Western Australia Day long weekend in June 2021.</p> <p>All other scheduled events have been cancelled.</p>
Economic Development	<p>Westgold continue to cart ore from Comet, Great Fingal and Big Bell mines to their processing plant at Tuckabianna. Reopening of their Cuddingwarra mine sites is planned to commence shortly. Plans for the construction of a private mine haul road from Big Bell to Tuckabianna have been shelved, with an MOU signed between the Shire and the company for Shire roads to be upgraded at the company's cost. Westgold's Cue Village mining camp is currently at capacity, as is an additional camp, catering for 120 workers, constructed at their Big Bell mine site.</p> <p>Musgrave Minerals continue to report good gold results from their drilling at Moyagee as they progress toward full mining operations. Musgrave have entered into a joint venture with Cyprium Metals who are focused on copper deposits.</p>

	<p>Fenix Resources have finalised arrangements for iron ore cartage operations from their Iron Ridge mine, situated in the Weld Range, to Geraldton Port. The Shire has recently signed off on an MOU with the company detailing upgrades to the road network and associated company contributions.</p> <p>Golden State Mining and Adaman Resources have combined to remove stockpiles of battery sands in and around Cue townsite for transport to Kirkalocka for processing. Removal of the stockpiles, followed by rehabilitation of the underlying land, will significantly alter the landscape on the Northern town boundary.</p> <p>The process of certifying the Cue Aerodrome is slowly progressing, with airstrip upgrades now complete. Certification of the aerodrome is primarily being undertaken to accommodate larger aircraft proposed for Westgold’s FIFO operations.</p> <p>The Prince-Wright Productions feature film, <i>Before Dawn</i>, which was due to begin filming in Cue in August 2020, has been put on hold during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is now proposed that filming in Cue will commence August 2021.</p> <p>The Shire was one of six successful recipients of funding through the Mid West Development Commission Regional Economic Development grants, being allocated \$135,000 to assist with the construction of a six-unit building in the light industrial area designed to accommodate businesses providing a range of trades and services supporting the mining sector.</p> <p>Local businesses are suffering the impact of COVID-19 restrictions, with the Murchison Club Hotel worst affected. Sales of takeaway meals and alcohol continue on a limited basis. The café at the Queen of the Murchison B&B is also open for takeaways. Bell & Co and the Cue Roadhouse are experiencing supply issues, however are managing to function at reasonable capacity.</p>
<p>Tourism</p>	<p>What looked like developing into a solid season for the Tourist Park evaporated when the park was closed to complement State Government imposed travel restrictions. Caravanners who had already arrived were encouraged to return home. Six vans remain due to the occupants having no viable alternative.</p> <p>Construction of the Heritage Interpretation Centre in the area behind the Cue Community & Visitor Centre is almost complete. The building will provide climate-controlled display space and will feature virtual reality technology to immerse visitors in a 3D holographic experience. Unfortunately the official opening planned for 30 April was cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions.</p>

<p>Town Developments</p>	<p>The construction of three new houses, with two to be leased to the State Government for police accommodation through the Government Regional Officer Housing program, is progressing. The Shire is currently undertaking site works while the houses are under construction in Perth for transportation to Cue when complete.</p> <p>The tender for refurbishing the old railway station building into a Youth and Community Centre has been awarded to Hi Constructions. An experienced stonemason has also been engaged separately to work with the contractor on the project, which is expected to commence soon.</p>
<p>Works</p>	<p>WANDRRA funded works to repair flood damage caused to several roads within the Shire during recent rain events is continuing, with contractors issued travel documents allowing them to cross regional boundaries between swings.</p> <p>The Shire's Road Crew Supervisor, Gordon Fraser, passed away early in April following a battle with pancreatic cancer. Gordon was a respected local indigenous man and was closely involved in the Wajarri Yamatji Native Title determination. Funeral arrangements have not yet been finalised, however a date in early May is being considered by his family. COVID-19 restrictions will impact heavily, as under normal circumstances this funeral would be expected to attract upwards of 500 people.</p>

8.6 Shire of Meekatharra



Activities and issues - Shire of Meekatharra

Major Issues

Long life mining companies are being given full approval by state agencies with no consideration as to how they will transport their inputs and outputs to and from site. In some cases there is an assumption/expectation that they will use Shire roads. Unsealed shire roads are not designed or constructed to take large, long term mine haul programs. There are concerns for the financial and resource impact on shires, public safety and potential environmental impacts that are created when numerous large road trains use unsealed roads.

Upgrade and sealing of the Goldfields Highway Meekatharra to Wiluna. Mid-West Development Commission, Main Roads and the Wiluna and Meeka Shires are researching potential funding alternatives. Main Roads have been allocated \$1M to undertake further sealing near Wiluna.

Meekatharra District Hospital replacement is urgent. Built in 1955, the Meekatharra Hospital is now 64 years old and must be replaced as a matter of highest priority. Minister for Health, Hon Roger Cook visited Meeka late July 2019 and has directed WACHS to do a business case for the replacement of the Hospital. The Business Case was completed late 2019 and is with WA Treasury for assessment.

Human Resources

All positions are currently filled. Youth Services staff remain productively employed for the time being although all usual services have ceased. Works department programs and works continue ... almost as usual. The Shire Office remains open. Two office based staff are working from home full time. Four staff with separate offices are self-confining in their offices. The three remaining staff remain in the open office area for the time being. Generous Covid 19 Leave provisions were endorsed by Council on 21 March 2020.

Land/Buildings

Redevelopment of the old Lloyds Building on Main Street is being jointly funded by Lotteries WA, the Federal Building Better Regions Fund and the Meeka Shire. The project build is almost complete and includes facilities for the CRC, a gallery, museum, conference centre, hairdresser, café, atrium and 2 retail/office spaces.

Road Construction & Equipment

Mainly maintenance and resheeting works scheduled this year for the Road Construction Crew. Approximately 7 kms of Ashburton Downs Road will be sealed late April 2020 using Roads to Recovery funding. Considerable natural disaster damage (est. \$15M) occurred early in 2020. Assessment and evidence gathering is in progress.

Promotions/Events

Events appear unlikely in the near future due to restrictions in place in response to the Coronavirus. This year's Meeka Festival/Race weekend is/was scheduled for September 25 – 28. Tentative arrangements for the Festival continue.

Governance/Admin/Finance

Rates will be set on 18 April 2020. Statutory budget is to be adopted in June 2020.

9. Presentations

Water Corporation – Power Point Presentation on the progress of Electrolysis projects in the Shires of Mount Magnet, Cue, Meekatharra and Sandstone.

Darryle Merritt – Covid-19 Response Bill, progress of Local Government Act review and Redress WA.

Richard Malacari – Lotterywest Covid-19 relief Funding, Sports Tourism Capacity Building and Event Management training.

Cr Price assumed the Chair as President Foulkes-Taylor's connection had dropped out.

10. Emerging Issues as Notified/Permitted by the President

Patient Assisted Travel Scheme issues to be raised at State Council, due to issues limiting assistance to travel to specialists within the region only.

President Foulkes-Taylor resumed the Chair having reconnected to the meeting.

11. Next Meeting

With the December 2020 State Council meeting being scheduled on Wednesday 2 December 2020, WALGA has nominated a suggested date for the zone meeting being Friday 27 November 2020

Moved Cr Price

Seconded Cr Walton

That the next meeting of the Murchison Country Zone be held in Cue on Friday 27 November 2020.

Carried 11/0

12. Meeting Closure

The President thanked those attending. There being no further business the President to close the meeting at 11.15am.