

Murchison Country Zone of WALGA

Shires of –
Cue
Meekatharra
Mount Magnet
Murchison
Sandstone
Yalgoo

ABN 75 305 122 944



MINUTES

MURCHISON COUNTRY ZONE MEETING

TUESDAY APRIL 24th 2018

SHIRE OF CUE COUNCIL CHAMBERS

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Minutes

Ordinary Meeting, Shire of Cue Council Chambers on Tuesday 24th April 2018

1. OPENING 9.30am

2. ATTENDANCE

2.1 Delegates

Cr Rossco Foulkes-Taylor
Cr Jorgen Jensen
Cr Eliz Morris
Cr Les Price
Cr Rob Madson
Cr Beth Walton
Cr Carol Hodshun
Mr Peter Dittrich
Cr Joanne Kanny
Cr Gail Trenfield

Zone President Murchison Shire
President Mount Magnet Shire
Mount Magnet Shire
Cue Shire
Cue Shire CEO
President Sandstone Shire
Sandstone Shire
Murchison Shire CEO
President Yalgoo Shire
Yalgoo Shire

2.2 Observers

Mr Murray Brown
Mr Kelvin Matthews
Mr Harry Hawkins
Mr Silvio Brenzi
Cr Liz Houghton
Cr Jim Quadrio
Mr Colin Bastow

Executive Officer – Murchison Zone
CEO Shire of Mount Magnet
CEO Shire of Sandstone
CEO Shire of Yalgoo
Shire of Cue
President Shire of Wiluna
CEO Shire of Wiluna

2.3 Visitors

Mr Vince Catania MLA
Hon Robin Scott MLC
Ms Evie Devitt-Rix
Mr Grant Brock

Mr Gavin Treasure
Mr Alan Bradley
Ms Barbara Thompson
Mr Andrew Klein

Member for North West
Member for Pastoral and Mining
Senior Community Policy Officer
Chief Operating Officer – Murchison
Westgold Resources Limited
CEO Midwest DC
CEO RDAMW
RDAMW
District Operations Manager Health

Mr Paul Mceleny

Mr John D'Arcy
Mr George Heald
Mr Aaron Harding
Mr Julian Smith

Mr Steven Kean

Mr Ernie Miller
Ms Jenny Allen
Mr Brad Mitchell
Mr Richard Malacari

Ms Yvonne Messina
Ms Catherine Willett

A/Regional Director of Nursing and
Midwifery
Water Corporation
CSIRO Science Leader
General Manager First Aid (St John)
General Manager Country Ambulance
Services
Electorate Officer for Hon Robin Scott
MLC
Regional Manager Main Roads
Health
Regional Manager - Transport
Regional Manager Midwest- Gascoyne
– Sport and Recreation
RDAMW

2.3 Apologies

Hon Mark McGowan MLA
Hon RH Cook MLA

Hon John Quigley MLA
Hon Alannah MacTiernan MLC

Hon Rita Saffioti MLA
Hon Michelle Roberts MLA
Hon Simone McGurk MLA

Hon Francis Logan MLA

Hon Peter Tinley AM MLA

Hon Bill Johnston MLA

Hon M P Murray MLA

Hon Stephen Dawson MLC

Hon Sue Ellery MLC
Hon Paul Papalia MLA

Hon Ben Wyatt MLA

Hon Ken Baston MLC
Hon Robin Chapple MLC

Premier of Western Australia
Deputy Premier; Minister for Health; Mental
Health
Attorney General
Minister for Regional Development;
Agriculture and Food; Minister assisting the
Minister for State Development; Jobs and
Trade.
Minister for Transport; Planning: Lands
Minister for Police; Road Safety
Minister for Child Protection; Women's
Interests; Prevention of Family and Domestic
Violence; Community Services.
Minister for Emergency Services; Corrective
Services
Minister for Housing: Veterans Issues:
Youth
Minister for Mines and Petroleum; Commerce
and Industrial Relations; Electoral Affairs;
Asian Engagement.
Minister for Seniors and Ageing: Sport and
Recreation
Minister for Environment; Disability Services

Minister for Education and Training
Minister for Tourism; Racing and gaming;
Small Business; Defence Issues; Citizenship
and Multi Cultural Issues
Treasurer; Minister for Finance; Energy;
Aboriginal Affairs

Member for Pastoral and Mining Region
Member for Pastoral and Mining Region

Hon Kyle McGinn
Mr Brendin Flanigan
Cr Lynne Craigie
Ms Lynne Hunt

Cr Norm Trenfield
Mr Roy Mc Clymont
Cr Ross Pigdon

Member for Pastoral and Mining Region
Formally from MWDC
State President WALGA
Regional Manager Midwest St John
Ambulance
President Shire of Meekatharra
CEO Shire of Meekatharra
Shire President Shire of Cue



3.0 Official Opening of Conference

Mr Vince Catania MLA – Member for North West

In officially opening this conference he welcomed all members, guests and visitors to Cue and congratulated the Cue Shire for winning an award for their work in developing their new Visitors Centre.

Mr Catania also thanked members of this region in fighting the proposed closure of the School of the Air but congratulated the current State Government for part funding more works on the vermin proof fence.

He commented that nursing posts located in remote areas should be staffed by a minimum of three nursing staff as this is the minimum number of Police Officers staffed in country police stations.

4.1 Confirmation of Minutes – Ordinary Meeting 24th November 2017

Comment –

Minutes of the meeting held 24th November 2017 have been circulated to Member Shires.

Recommendation –

That the Minutes of the Zone Meeting held 24th November 2017 be confirmed.

RESOLUTION –

Moved: Cr Walton

Seconded: Cr Jensen

That the Minutes of the Zone Meeting held 24th November 2017 be confirmed.

Carried

5 WA LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

5.1 WALGA President

President's Report

March 2018

ALGA Strategic Review

We participated in the review of ALGA's strategic direction in February, discussing with the other State and Territory Associations the focus of our national effort. A couple of important conclusions were reached.

There was confirmation that Strengthening Local Government Financial Sustainability: Strengthening Regions and Cities, and; Infrastructure that meets the needs of local communities, remains core business.

In addition, there was acknowledgement that Innovation and Digital Transformation is critical, albeit still somewhat undefined or misunderstood within the sector. The challenge was accepted to promote more clarity into this debate and focus Local Government on the benefits that could be derived from new approaches. There are significant opportunities to use innovation to enhance the performance of local government and at the same time help achieve Commonwealth and State agendas.

The importance of not just communicating up-stream (*to the Commonwealth*) but also down-stream to strengthen the sector was recognized as a significant challenge that was critical to ALGA's credibility.

Indigenous issues continue to be acknowledged as a priority.

The Local Government platform for the pending Federal Election was considered and it was agreed to model the document on an approach using broad themes and specific asks based on the core considerations outlined in the strategic plan - financial sustainability, strong Regions and Cities, local infrastructure and the promotion of innovation and digital transformation.

The value of being able to utilize local examples to help contextualize national funding bids was repeatedly emphasized, particularly in regard to the proposed Community Infrastructure Fund and the expansion of Financial Assistance Grants. I encourage all Local Governments to contribute their local examples to help ALGA demonstrate the worth of these vital funding requests.

ALGA will distribute more detail on these and other associated issues in the weeks ahead.

Training Boost for Regional Councillors

Country Councils have been given a boost with the State Government extending funding of \$420,000 for regional Local Government Elected Member training. The funding extension will deliver 48 training days in country areas which is expected to provide courses for about 450 regional Elected Members.

The new training allocation followed the \$1.3 million program funded by the State Government which had delivered training to almost 1400 participants over four years. The decision demonstrates a sensible approach to Elected Member training that recognises the challenges faced in regional communities. Most of our smaller Local Governments in WA are located in regional areas with limited funds to support Councillor training but also the greatest costs in having to travel to metropolitan based programs.

The core training that will be provided as a result of the funding will be selected stage 1 courses from the WALGA Learning and Development Pathway program. The units selected are designed to provide Elected Members with an understanding of serving on Council and include;

- Understanding Local Government
- Serving on Council
- Meeting Procedures and Debating.

In addition to these course units the following can also be considered:

- Effective Community Leadership

- Integrated Strategic Planning (Essentials)
- Integrated Strategic Planning (Advanced)
- Understanding Financial Reports and Budgets

The delivery of 48 days of training for 12 Zones (4 days per zone) needs to be completed by 30 June 2018. Scheduling for these courses is currently underway with WALGA Training liaising with host Local Governments and Executive Officers in each Zone.

I encourage all country Elected Members to take advantage of the training program and I sincerely thank the Minister for Local Government and Minister for Regional Development for making the funding available.

Economic Briefing

It's that time of year where Local Governments are developing their budgets for the coming financial year. To ensure that finances are managed responsibly and the burden on ratepayers is minimised, it is important that Councils have an understanding of the economic environment to identify likely trends in revenue and demand for services, and to recognise and risks that may prevent the projected budget outcome from being achieved.

To assist Councils with their budget preparation activities, WALGA is preparing a special edition of its Economic Briefing publication. This will include statistics and forecasts for the WA economy in the coming year, as well as insights into cost pressure and funding opportunities. Keep an eye on your inbox for this update in late February.

Economic Development Framework

A key element of WALGA's Strategic Plan 2015-2020 is to foster economic and regional development in Local Government. In support of this, WALGA has recently commenced a project to support Local Government economic development activities. The project aims to develop a practical framework to assist Local Governments across the state in the implementation of their economic development strategies and activities and to ensure ongoing alignment with contemporary practice. The project will be guided by a reference group of Local Governments, with the first meeting to be held in late February.

NDIS Update

On Tuesday, 12 December, the Commonwealth and WA Governments announced that the national NDIS will be rolled out in WA under a new bilateral agreement. From 1 July 2018, the Commonwealth (through the NDIA) will assume responsibility for the delivery of the NDIS in WA with the transition beginning on 1 April 2018. The NDIS will continue to roll out on a geographic basis and will be fully rolled out across WA by 2020.

WALGA met with Disability Services on 30 January to discuss the impact on Local Government and next steps and future direction. Disability Services are still in the process of working with NDIA to refine the direction and process, but have confirmed their interest in partnering with WALGA to host an *Information and Next Steps Forum* for Local Governments once more information is confirmed. The Forum would involve Department of Communities and Disability Services, and NDIA representatives and involve information sharing, discussion of challenges and opportunities and an opportunity to seek clarification. More information will be shared once details are confirmed.

Emergency Management

At the time of writing the North West has experienced significant rain events leading to flooding and isolation. Recovery and restoration activities are again a priority to assist communities to return to normal. Thankfully, we have not experienced catastrophic bushfires this season, however, we know that many local governments have had their fair share, including fires in the Perth hills, South West and Great Southern parts of our State. Once again the dedicated volunteers from within our communities stand up and I wish to acknowledge and commend all Local Governments for their efforts in emergency management to protect our communities and keep them safe.

WA Public Libraries Draft Strategy

The draft WA Public Libraries Strategy has been released with comments welcome until 8 December. WALGA is partnering with State Library to host a Forum for Local Governments to discuss the background paper and draft Strategy. The Forum is scheduled for 6 March, with consultation closing on 29 March.

PRESIDENT'S CONTACTS

During the December – March 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. Roger Cook MLA, Deputy Premier; Minister for Health; Mental Health
- Hon. Stephen Dawson MLC Minister for Environment; Disability Services
- Hon. Mia Davies, Leader of the National Party of Australia (WA)
- State Roads Funds to Local Government Advisory Committee

Local Government Relations

- Paula Rogers, State Director, CEDA
- LGIS Board Meeting x2
- ALGA Board Meeting
- Local Government House Trust Meeting
- Landcorp, Chairman George McCullagh, CEO Frank Marra
- City of Bunbury, Mayor Gary Brennan, A/CEO Mal Osborne
- City of Busselton, Mayor Grant Henley, Deputy Mayor Cr John McCallum, CEO Mike Archer, Cr Rob Bennett, Cr Paul Carter, Cr Coralie Tarbotton, Cr Kelly Hick, Director Finance & Corporate Services – Cliff Frewing / Tony Nottle
- Shire of Augusta-Margaret River, President Cr Pam Townsend, CEO Gary Evershed
- Shire of Nannup, President Cr Tony Dean, CEO Peter Clarke
- Shire of Manjimup, President Cr Paul Omodei, CEO Andrew Campbell
- Shire of Bridgetown, President Cr Tim Clynch, CEO Tony Pratico
- Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup, President Cr Brian Piesse, CEO Ben Rose
- City of Joondalup, Mayor Albert Jacob, CEO Garry Hunt
- City of Armadale, Mayor Henry Zelones, CEO Ray Tame

Conferences / Workshops / Public Relations

- Pathways Guide to a Healthy Community Launch
- Launch of WALGA Road Safety Campaign
- WA State of the State 2017
- Leadership Breakfast with Telstra CEO Andy Penn
- AICD 'Applied Risk Governance' Workshop

Zone Meetings

- South Metropolitan Zone Meeting

Item 5.1

WALGA President's Report

May 2018

Rural Fire Division

The long awaited announcement on a Rural Fire Division was made today by the Premier Mark McGowan and Emergency Services Minister Fran Logan.

In response to recommendations from the January 2016 Waroona Bushfire Special Inquiry, a new Rural Fire Division has been announced to increase the focus on bushfire management and volunteer relations.

The Rural Fire Division, based within DFES, will include the Office of Bushfire Risk Management, the Bushfire Risk Management Program and a newly created Bushfire Centre of Excellence. An overview introducing the Executive Director of the Rural Fire Division, Mr Murray Cater, can be found on the following website; <https://www.dfes.wa.gov.au/newsandmedia/rfd/Documents/dfes-rfd-statements.pdf>

Bushfire Brigades remain with Local Governments, with current operational and management structures remaining the same.

The Rural Fire Division comes with significant investment including:

- \$15 million towards the Bushfire Risk Management Program to support local governments identify and manage bushfire risk.
- \$34.6 million has been committed to bushfire mitigation which improve the ability for identified risk management strategies to be implemented in communities.
- \$18 million for a Bushfire Centre of Excellence to enhance bushfire management practices across the State and provide a specialised facility for volunteers bushfire training.

Funding of these commitments will be achieved through an increase in the Emergency Services Levy (ESL) which will take effect July 1, 2018.

The Premier announced an increase of \$28 to the metropolitan ESL and increases of between \$8 and \$17 per annum across the four regional ESL categories will also be included in the 2018-19 State Budget.

In recognition of the Economic Regulation Authority review into the ESL, an ESL Referral and Grants Advisory Committee will be established to provide independent scrutiny and increase transparency around the ESL. This Committee will be made up of non-DFES appointees to provide independent advice to the Emergency Services Minister about how money is spent to ensure maximum value for all Western Australians.

The Association is seeking further information on the ESL components of the announcement, given the sector's responsibility for the collection of the ESL and being a recipient of Local Government Capital and Operating Grants to support Bushfire Volunteers.

Waste Taskforce created to combat China's recycling ban

Following advocacy from WALGA (through the Municipal Waste Advisory Council) and the waste industry, the Minister for the Environment has created a Taskforce to deal with the implications of China's National Sword Policy.

The Taskforce will provide advice directly to the Minister for Environment on management of the waste and recycling industry, following China's policy change

To help address the Chinese Government's import restrictions on recyclable waste, Environment Minister Stephen Dawson has established a taskforce to advise on waste management in Western Australia.

The Waste Taskforce was created following consultation with State and local governments, the waste industry and community stakeholders, with the group's first meeting anticipated during the week beginning on April 9, 2018.

The Taskforce will consider its objectives, scope and governance arrangements at its first meeting. It will provide advice on how to ensure Western Australia can weather the storm of the China decision - building on the State Government's commitment to improving waste and recycling performance.

The Taskforce will directly advise the Minister for Environment on recycling market issues and opportunities in WA. This advice will align with national actions to support recycling, the WA Waste Strategy and the promotion of the circular economy. A range of short, medium and long-term opportunities will be explored through the work of the Taskforce.

The Waste Taskforce will be chaired by Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Environment, Baldvis MLA Reece Whitby; and will include representatives from the Waste Authority and Department of Water and Environmental Regulation; local government and regional councils; the waste services and recycling industry; the packaging industry; Aboriginal and community groups; and key government agencies.

Local Government Act Review Process

The Local Government Act Review process is progressing. To date the Association has carried out a consultation process on a WALGA discussion paper, where positions were put forward on issues the sector would like considered in the review process. These positions were endorsed at State Council meeting held in December 2017 meeting. Following this there has been sector consultation on the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries phase 1 consultation paper. Positions on the Departments paper were endorsed by State Council at the March 2018 meeting.

The Departments Steering Committee will be convening in early May 2018 to consider responses to the phase 1 consultation process.

We will keep the sector informed on any developments as this process progresses.

Ministerial Review of the State Industrial Relations System – Interim Report

The interim report of the Ministerial Review of the State Industrial Relations Review has recently been released for comment.

The Interim Report recommendations are suggesting that Local Government employers and employees be regulated by the State Industrial Relations system.

WALGA's original submission to the review opposed Local Governments being regulated by the State system based on member feedback and that 96% of all Local Government employees are covered by the Federal industrial relations system.

A submission opposing the Interim Reports recommendation that Local Government be regulated by the State industrial relations system is being finalised. WALGA's submission will also make comment on the proposed transition process as well as a range of other recommendations that will impact the Local Government sector.

WALGA Honours Program – Nominations Open

Nominations are now open for the 2018 WALGA Honours Program, which recognises and celebrates Local Government Elected Members and employees for their contribution to the Local Government sector, the Association, and the community.

Nominations should be submitted on the forms available on the WALGA website with supporting information by the closing date of 5:00pm, Friday, 11 May.

For more information, visit the Honours website, or contact Executive Officer Governance, Margaret Degebrodt, on mdegebrodt@walga.asn.au or (08) 9213 2036.

2018 ANZAC Day Award

The ANZAC Day Award recognises Local Government contribution to the promotion and facilitation of community involvement in ANZAC Day commemorative events and initiatives.

The Award Panel, which will consist of senior WALGA and RSLWA representatives, will consider:

- collaboration between the RSL and the Local Government in ensuring a successful commemoration
- innovation by the Local Government in ensuring continued relevance of ANZAC Day commemorations in community life, and
- involvement of the broader community, including young people, in ANZAC Day commemorations.

The Award will be presented during the WALGA Annual General Meeting held at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre on Wednesday, 1 August.

Photographs and/or other imagery of the commemoration as well as statements from veterans, community members and third parties are encouraged.

The nomination form is available from: <http://walga.asn.au/Policy-Advice-and-Advocacy/Governance-and-Strategy/ANZAC-Day-Award.aspx?lang=en-AU&>

Nominations close on Friday, 1 June.

PRESIDENT'S CONTACTS

During the March - May period, contacts that have occurred or are scheduled to take place prior to the May State Council meeting are as follows:

State Government Relations:

- State Roads Funds to Local Government Advisory Committee

Local Government Relations

- ALGA Board Meeting
- LGIS Board Offsite Planning Day
- Lord Mayors Distress Relief Meeting
- Landcorp, Chairman Mr George McCullagh, CEO Mr Frank Marra
- Ms Nicole Lockwood, Ms Kellie Houlahan, Mr Mark Brownwell, Freight & Logistics Council
- Mr Richard Sellers, Mr Peter Woronzow, Dept of Transport
- Wheatbelt Conference 2018
- Pilbara/Kimberley Forum

Conferences / Workshops / Public Relations

- LGIS Key Partners Lunch
- Mayor & Presidents Forum
- WALGA RAP Launch
- The Hon. Kerry Sanderson Farewell Dinner
- Heather Henderson Freedom of The City Cocktail Function
- ANZAC Day Ceremony with RSL WA
- City of Swan 2018 Mayoral Dinner
- Members of Parliament Breakfast
- Pilbara/Kimberley Forum

Zone Meetings

- Central Metropolitan Zone
- Kimberley Country Zone
- Goldfields Esperance Country Zone

RECEIVED

5.2 Zone Representative to State Council Cr Les Price

Cr Price gave a brief description of the make up and functions of WALGA.

Cr Price also spoke on the issues of Councils using insurance not provided through the WALGA Insurance company.

5.3 Zone Status Report

Zone WALGA reps	Agenda Item	Zone Resolution	WALGA Respon
Murchis on C	2016 November 4 Zone Agenda Item 7.4 Shire of Murchison: Roads and Road Reserves	That this Zone request WALGA to lobby the State Government to establish a database of existing and future environmental and heritage surveys pertaining to roads and road reserves, and this information be publically accessible.	Further updates will be provided through the Activities Report.

RECEIVED

5.4 Agenda Briefs – WALGA Meeting May 2018

WALGA Agenda Briefs provided under separate cover.

Considered later in the meeting.

6.1 Financial Statements

Proposed by *Executive Officer*

Attachments Income & Expenditure – 1/07/17 to 31/01/18

Comment –

Refer Financial Statements on next page

Reconciled balances of account as at 31st January 2018 –

Cheque Account (229 492)	\$ 18,131.31	Westpac Bank, Kalamunda
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Reconciled balance of account as at 31st January 2018

Cheque Account	\$18,131.31
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Recommendation –

That the Financial Statements for the period 1 July 2017 to 31st January 2018 be received.

RESOLUTION –	Moved: Cr Price	Seconded: Cr Kanny
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That the Financial Statements for the period 1 July 2017 to 31st January 2018 be received.

CARRIED

MURCHISON COUNTRY ZONE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2017/18

Bank Balance (as Per B/S) 01/07/17 \$11,476.32

Income and Expenditure for period 1/7/17 to 31/01/18

Income

Subs	\$12,600.00
Interest A/C 22-9492	\$ 12.11
	\$ 12,612.11

Payments 2017/2018

Catering 24/11/17	200115	\$ 1,250.00
Catering		\$
Bank Fees Paid		\$
Secretarial		\$ 3,250.00
Honoraria Reimbursement of expenses E/O		\$ 951.12
Honoraria -Pres		\$
Honoraria-Zone Delegate		\$
Honoraria- Deputy		\$
		\$ 5,451.12

Reconciliation

Balance B/F 1/07/17	\$ 11,476.32
Add Income Received 2017/18	\$ 12,612.11
	\$ 24,088.43
Less Payments 17/18	\$ 5,451.12
	\$ 18,637.31
Less unrepresented cheque 200108 from 2016/17 \$ 506.00 Presented in 2017/2018	

Balance as per Bank Statement 31/01/18 **\$ 18,131.31**

Please note that payments listed for today are not included in this statement

6.2 Accounts paid/ To be Paid

Proposed by Executive Officer

Attachments nil

Comment –

<i>Cheque</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Payee</i>	<i>For</i>	<i>Amount incl GST</i>
200116		Murray Brown	Reimbursement of Minute Book and Binding	\$187.00
200117		Murray Brown	EO Reimbursement of Expenses	\$951.12
200118		Murray Brown	Secretarial Costs	\$3,250.00
200119		R Foulkes-Taylor	Honorarium	\$600.00
200120		L Price	Honorarium	\$530.00
200121		J.Jensen	Honorarium	\$400.00
200122		Queen of the Murchison	Catering 24/4/18	\$1,180.00
TOTAL				
GST – MCZ of WALGA is no longer registered for GST				\$7,098.12

Recommendation –

That the accounts listed above, cheque numbers 200116 to 200122 be paid for the period November 2017 to May 2018 and be approved for payment.

RESOLUTION –

Moved: Cr Walton

Seconded: Cr Morris

CARRIED

Carried

Murchison Country Zone WALGA

Budget - Income and Expenditure

	01/07/18 to 30/06/19		30/06/18
	Estimated Actual 30/06/18	Budget 18/19	Budget
			30/06/18
Income			
21 · Zone Income			
2101 · General subscriptions	12,600.00	15,000.00	12,600.00
2107 · Interest earned	20.00	20.00	20.00
2190 · Reimbursements			
Refund of Closed A/c Inc			
interest			0.00
Total 21 · Zone Income	<u>12,620.00</u>	<u>15,020.00</u>	<u>12,620.00</u>
Total Income	\$12,620.00	15,020.00	12,620.00
Expense			
31 · Zone Expenses			
3101 · Ordinary Meetings	3,500.00	3,500.00	3,500.00
3102 · Telephone conferences			
3103 · Special Meetings & Workshops			
3107 · Bank fees and charges		20.00	20.00
3190 · Reimbursements expense	187.00		0.00
3199 · Unclassified expenses(Min Book)			0.00
Total 31 · Zone Expenses	<u>3,687.00</u>	<u>3,520.00</u>	<u>3,520.00</u>
32 · Zone Representatives			
3201 · Honoraria	<u>1,530.00</u>	<u>1,530.00</u>	<u>1,530.00</u>
Total 32 · Zone Representatives	<u>5,217.00</u>	<u>5,050.00</u>	<u>5,050.00</u>
33 · Executive Officer			
3301 · Professional services	6,500.00	6,500.00	6,500.00
3302 · Travel	1,542.00	1,542.00	1,542.00
3303 · Phone and fax	260.00	260.00	260.00
3304 · Other	<u>200.00</u>	<u>200.00</u>	<u>200.00</u>
Total 33 · Executive Officer	<u>8,502.00</u>	<u>8,502.00</u>	<u>8,502.00</u>
Total Expense	<u>\$13,719.00</u>	<u>13,552.00</u>	<u>13,552.00</u>
Net Income (Loss)	<u>(\$1099)</u>	<u>\$1,468.00Cr</u>	<u>\$-932.00</u>

In Brief

- ## Background

Knowing the agreement with Local Governments was to expire in December 2017 and on the basis the Department of Transport (the Department) desired regional and remote Local Governments to continue to provide licensing services, in June 2017 the Department surveyed the CEOs of affected Local Governments seeking the following advice:

- Did the Local Government want to continue to provide licensing services?

- What are the issues encountered with the current agreement?
- What suggested improvements could be incorporated into the new agreements?

The Department received 56 (of 71) responses from affected Local Governments and all but one indicated a willingness to continue to provide licensing services. The common issues raised included:

- Commission payments did not cover the cost of providing the service.
- Merchant fee costs to the Local Government had increased.
- There was an increase in complex transactions compared to simple payment processing.
- There was a need for more training.

According to the Department the replacement agreements were drafted to incorporate feedback from affected Local Governments and the changes to the agreements are minimal.

The Department advises that a restructure of the *Road Traffic Act 1974* has necessitated that two replacement agreements be offered to Local Governments:

1. A main agreement known as the Road Law Agreement.
This agreement covers driver and vehicle licensing transactions under legislation that includes the *Road Traffic (Authorisation to Drive) Act 2008* and *Road Traffic Act 1974*.
2. A subsidiary agreement known as the Non-Road Law Agreement.
This agreement covers transactions under legislation that includes the licensing of vessels (*WA Marine Act 1982*), photo cards (*WA Photo Card Act 2014*), motor vehicle driving instructor fees (*Motor Vehicles Drivers Instructors Act 1963*), and licensing and renewal of licenses for off road vehicles (*Control of Vehicles (Off Road Areas) Act 1978*).

The two replacement agreements contain no services additional to those in the expired agreement.

Under the provisions of section 11 of the *Road Traffic (Administration) Act 2008* in late 2017 the Department provided affected Local Governments with the replacement agreements for signing. In response some Local Governments raised the following matters:

- The timeframe for signing and returning the agreements to the Department did not allow sufficient time for them to be formally put to Councils for consideration.
- Local Governments were offered agreements for either a three year or five year term rather than a ten year term as was done previously.
- There was no remarkable increase in commission payment rates except for CPI increase; and generally it is a cost burden for Local Governments to provide the services.

This matter was considered as an emerging issue at the WALGA State Council meeting in December 2017 resulting in a resolution that WALGA engage with the Department of Transport to further investigate the issue of vehicle licencing contracts.

Comment

WALGA met with senior Department of Transport representatives who provided the following advice in relation to the matters raised by some affected Local Governments.

Review of expired agreement

The Department reviewed the ten year agreement prior to its expiration with the aim to more clearly detail service provision requirements and levels; and process requirements. The

replacement agreements were drafted to incorporate feedback from affected Local Governments. Key changes are summarized in Attachment 1.

Timeframe for signing replacement agreements

The current ten year agreement for Local Governments to provide licensing services expired on 31 December 2017. A restructure of the *Road Traffic Act 1974* necessitated that two replacement agreements be drafted, which were offered to Local Governments for signing in late 2017. The timeframe nominated by the Department to sign and return the agreements did not allow sufficient time for Local Government CEOs to put them to their Councils for consideration. Acknowledging the timeframe was insufficient, the Department granted a three month extension of the expired agreement to the end of March 2018.

Three year or five year replacement agreements

In line with community demands the Department is actively seeking to shift transaction processing to on-line methods. A number of transactions can now be processed and/or paid via on-line modes. Over the coming years the Department plans to implement additional on-line transactions and other initiatives such as e-billing and direct debits that will accelerate the shift from face-to-face processing to on-line processing. These initiatives will have consequences for Local Government as simple transactions will move on-line leaving more complex and time consuming transactions to be processed face-to-face.

Sixty three percent (63%) of the Department's payments are currently processed online (representing 4.6 million payments) compared with 46% in 2013-2014 (3.4 million transactions).

Transactions processed at Local Governments have fallen 12% since 2011-2012 with a significant portion of the reduction occurring in the last two years. The reduction is due to the shift to on-line payment processing; changed economic conditions; and a move by the WA Police Force to process firearm transactions on-line through its website.

Local Governments were offered replacement agreements for terms of either three or five years. The terms were determined by the Department changing its business practices and processes, the general shift to on-line processing, external factors including current economic conditions, and face-to-face transaction volumes. These factors combined could create situations in the future where it is uneconomical for a Local Government to continue providing the services; therefore the Department considered a ten year agreement term too long to afford sufficient flexibility for effective management by both parties. Shorter agreement terms will allow for regular review of the economic viability and service quality. As a consequence:

- Three year terms were offered to Local Governments with low transaction volumes located in close proximity (less than 50 kilometres) to other Local Governments providing the services.
- Five year terms were offered to Local Governments with higher transaction volumes; and close proximity (less than 50 kilometres) to other Local Governments providing the services.
- Five year terms were offered to Local Governments with higher transaction volumes; and Local Governments in remote areas.

Fees and costs

The fees and costs incurred by Driver and Vehicle Services (Department of Transport) are reflected in the fees and charges to customers. The Department advised it has an obligation to promote and support lower cost delivery methods because supporting more expensive service delivery methods comes at a cost to customers.

The Department acknowledged that feedback from the June 2017 survey of CEOs indicated commission payments do not fully meet the costs incurred by their Local Governments to provide licensing services. Contributing factors included increased merchant fees, increasing volume of complex transactions, and processing variations of the same transaction requiring additional time investment by staff.

According to the Department, the expired agreement provided for an increase in commission values paid to Local Governments based on CPI increases and became effective from 1 July each year. The replacement agreements continue this practice.

The Department has scheduled a commission increase of 3% effective from 1 January 2018. The cost is expected to be offset by falling transaction volumes. The Department also made a decision to provide additional funding to support Local Governments processing higher volumes of transactions above 3,000 per annum (12 per work day).

Recommendation

- That the Murchison Country Zone of WALGA note the advice provided by the Department of Transport on the two replacement agreements being offered to Local Governments in regional and remote areas to continue to provide licensing services under the *Road Traffic (Administration) Act 2008*.

Resolution

- That the Murchison Country Zone of WALGA note the advice provided by the Department of Transport on the two replacement agreements being offered to Local Governments in regional and remote areas to continue to provide licensing services under the *Road Traffic (Administration) Act 2008*.

Moved Cr Price

Seconded Mr Dittrich

CARRIED

Attachment 1

Summary of key changes to replacement agreements as provided by the Department of Transport

Clause change	Reason
Definition of "Database"	Clarify that the agreement relates to DoTs vehicle and driver licensing databases.
Definition of "KPI" removed	KPI considered outdated and replaced by a compliance concept that focusses on no errors and correction if errors are identified during daily audit. Further <i>please explain</i> if errors continue or are significant – see amended Schedule H.
Definition of "PCIDSS Annual Statement" removed	Not required from Shires.
Definition of "Physical stock point" (h)	Referenced to Schedule M for clarity.
Definition of "Principal's Property"	Expanded to include physical stock and equipment provided by the Principal.

Event of Default (g) - wording change	Amended to clarify Principal to be advised and may give consent if Agents personnel have a criminal history. Otherwise it is a default event.
6.3 Agents undertakings	Now includes returning plates through approved couriers.
6.5 Conflict of interest	Better define the Department's understanding of the term.
7.1 Supply by Principal	Remove EFTPOS from (b) (i) - Shires use own systems to process payments.
8.1 Training	(e) Added to recoup taxi fares to and from training - evidence/receipts required.
8.3 Telecommunications	Ongoing rental not covered - originally introduced in infancy of the internet, now all business have internet connection, and DoT upload traffic is small.
10.3 Use of the Principal's Systems and Database	(b) Amended to provide for the Principal to request signing of a confidentiality agreement on demand - providing greater flexibility to ensure Agent personnel are aware of their responsibility. (d) Require personnel to log off when not using the PC so as not to enable unauthorized staff to access data to reduce unauthorized access and release of personal customer information.
10.5 Return of Confidential information	(b) Provide for more regular return of paperwork or other confidential information to the Department.
15.1 Audit and Review and 15.2 Performance and Compliance review meetings	Include the concept of compliance with business rules (error reduction) as well as performance which relates to quality of service.
16 Disputes	(b) Clarify that the Agents and Principals representatives must resolve disputes.
Schedule A	Minor wording changes: - Definition – Transport Service Centre - Scope of Services – now Road Law due to restructure of legislation - Physical Stock Requirements (c) - Timeliness of Service – (i), (iii) and (b)(iii) - Quality of Service (b) - Auditing by Transport Service Centres
Schedule B	Increased by 3% for selected sites performing over 3,000 transactions per annum. Non driver or vehicle transactions (maritime, photo card and taxi) removed and placed in the Non Road Rules Agreement
Schedule E	Changes to allow for directives to be issued by email.
Schedule F	Wording changes to reflect changes to DoT operations.
Schedule H	Changes to focus on error correction and prevention.
Schedule L	Removal of term from main contract to this schedule for flexibility. Contracts either for 3 or 5 years depending on volumes.

Item 6.5

Report on Murchison Region SHIRE OF YALGOO AGENDA ITEM FOR MEETING – MURCHISON COUNTRY ZONE OF WALGA Aboriginal Corporation Rates Exemption matters

File:

Author: April 2018

Interest

Declared: Date:

Attachments

Matter for Consideration

WALGA should consider funding litigation by Murchison Country Zone region local governments in relation to the Murchison Region Aboriginal Corporation (**MRAC**) rates exemption claims.

Background

MRAC is an Aboriginal corporation that has made objections to the rates records against member local governments in the last two years. While MRAC is a registered charitable organisation, the Shire of Yalgoo is aware that some member local governments have been faced with claims for exemption in relation to vacant and, on some occasions, uninhabitable homes on the grounds that they are being used as a charitable housing service for Aboriginal tenants.

The Shire is also aware that in 2015 the organisation was placed into administration due to self-dealing by the directors of the organisation (including unlawful loans by those directors to themselves) and that some of the tenancies have been made available to directors or board members of MRAC under the auspices of the charitable service. The Shire's understanding is that, while MRAC is now under new management and no allegations have been made in respect of existing management, the tenancies granted to directors and board members are still current.

The Shire received a rates objection and did not allow the rates exemption. The Shire ultimately proceeded to a final hearing in the State Administrative Tribunal (see [2018] WASAT 17). The Shire made the following arguments:

1. prior Western Australian cases had established that, while Aboriginal Australians were generally in need, it is not presumed that Aboriginal Australians will always be in need and that services will not be charitable just because they are directed to Aboriginal Australians;
2. MRAC had declined to prove the tenants to whom the houses had been leased, so that there was no evidence before the Tribunal as to whether the services were in fact directed toward Aboriginal Australians (particularly in circumstances where MRAC had no relevant housing policies during the period of questionable management);
3. MRAC had declined to prove that the tenants were in need or that they had directed their services to ensure that those persons were in need;
4. MRAC was charging at or above market rent (based on census data); and
5. MRAC had only made statements that the properties were not profitable (despite a material annual surplus), provided no reasonable figures in relation to the income, costs and expenses of the properties and had made material accounting errors in the calculations produced to the Tribunal to contend that the properties were loss-making.

The Shire proceeded on the basis that the evidence as submitted to the Tribunal was inadequate and should not be relied upon. The Shire gave detailed submissions on why the

evidence submitted did not meet the standards of the Tribunal (based on prior decisions to the effect that the type of evidence led by MRAC should not be used in the Tribunal).

The Tribunal made findings that:

1. the Shire had not cross-examined the witnesses and or led alternate witnesses and the Tribunal would accordingly accept the evidence that the Shire had submitted was inadequate; and
2. it was not necessary to prove that the tenants were in need, provided that the "sole use of the Yalgoo properties is to provide housing to Aboriginal people, by a not-for-profit organisation and on a cost-recovery only basis" (at [73]);
3. however, if it were established that there were premium rents and a profit involved, the tenants would be established to be a "a small, limited subgroup of Aboriginal people, namely those people who can afford to pay premium rents, thereby satisfying the profit-motive of the landlord" (at [74]) and would accordingly not be considered to be in the usual group of Aboriginal Australians who require housing assistance;
4. notwithstanding the finding at [74], the Tribunal also found that:

the Tribunal does not consider that it is necessary for MRAC to prove that each of the Yalgoo properties is rented at below market rent. In circumstances where (as the evidence shows) the need of Aboriginal people for assistance in relation to housing is related not just to the cost of housing, but also to the ability to obtain and retain appropriate housing, it is sufficient to show that land is used exclusively to provide housing to Aboriginal people, by a not-for-profit organisation on a cost-recovery only basis. (at [82])

The Shire of Yalgoo elected not to appeal (noting the cost involved of such an exercise).

However, the question remains open for other Shires (or for other periods of time) where MRAC, or similar organisations, are using the properties on an ordinary rental basis and targeting Aboriginal Australian tenants.

It appears to the Shire that the burden is then put on the local governments to lead evidence to disprove, question or counter the evidence as to the value of the properties and the financial data of the organisation. The Shire expects this will involve an exchange of numerous records and cross-examination at a hearing. This approach would require a longer hearing process (in the days, rather than the half-day occupied by the Shire's hearing).

The Shire's view is that this is a concern for the entire sector, given that revenue streams are dependent on rating properties and the cost of denying an exemption where the workload falls on the Shire (rather than the applicant) can exceed the value of that revenue stream.

The Shire is aware that other Shires are currently involved in the Tribunal process with MRAC and that agreements with other Shires expire within a few years.

The Shire considers that there may be a sector interest in having a Supreme Court decision on the issues raised in the Yalgoo decision, seeks the Region's agreement and encourages WALGA to come to an arrangement whereby a test case can be funded through WALGA to resolve this issue for the sector.

The Shire also encourages WALGA to prepare a submission to the State Government as to legislative change on this issue.

Statutory Environment
Local Government Act 1995

s.6.26 (1) Except as provided in this section all land within a district is rateable land.

s.6.26 (2) The following land is not rateable land - (g) land used exclusively for charitable purposes.

Business Implications

This issue poses rates revenue and legal costs issues for the entire sector.

Consultation

Nil

Comment

Nil

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Recommendation

That the Region request WALGA to consider and consult on a plan to provide funding for a test case within the next two or three years to resolve whether property owners targeting Aboriginal Australian tenants are capable of claiming rates exemption and the evidentiary burden required to respond to claims of that nature.

Moved Cr

Seconded Cr

MOTION

7.1 Council Reports



SHIRE OF SANDSTONE

Activity Report – April 2018

Human Resources

The shire has lost 4 employees since the last report the leading hand grader driver, 2 plant operator/truck drivers and a casual all rounder with 2 of them owning their own homes so as well as finding replacement staff we have had to find homes for them to live in. Fortunately we had completed the new CLGF funded staff house so the replacement Leading Hand grader driver Arthur Wainwright has moved into that and new truck driver Andrew Mann has moved into what was the contractor house. The shire has purchased another house in town and are currently renovating that with the new mechanic and truck driver temporarily being housed in the caravan park until a house is available. The casual staff position has been filled by Paul Dixon whose wife is the caravan park manager. We have at last found a new mechanic after advertising twice ourselves without success and having an employment agent try and fill the position we had a mechanic walk in and ask if we had any vacancies for a plant operator/truck driver. Retired mechanic Keith May is still living in town and has been helping us keep the machinery running on a contract basis while the search has been taking place. After almost 20 years contracting to the shire of Sandstone Bill Atyeo has been replaced as EHO/Building Surveyor by Dave Hadden who also contracts to several northern goldfields local governments. Long time contract ranger Peter Smith's contract will also not be renewed at the end of June 2018 as there is very little for him to do in Sandstone and the Works Supervisor will take on any animal management tasks.

Road Works and Equipment

Contractors Alltrack have commenced work on the flood damage road repairs from February 2017 while shire staff are currently completing the Regional Road Group funded project on the Sandstone Paynes Find Road to be followed by the Roads to Recovery project on the Menzies Road. Although there was some heavy rainfall recently in parts of the shire apart from some minor damage at creek crossings the areas most affected are the same areas that are waiting for flood damage repairs from last years heavy rainfall event.

We have been very disappointed at the amount of preventable damage being done to plant and vehicles caused by staff carelessness particularly as we spent well over \$1m last financial year on new equipment. In speaking to contractors working locally it seems that this is a problem being faced by many with operators lacking respect for the amount of money that is invested in plant. Steps are being taken to make staff more accountable for damage with KPI's being introduced and annual performance bonuses have now been linked to these KPI's.

Tourism

Things have been quiet during the off season with only a trickle of visitors coming through but along with other Murchison Shires we are keen to be involved in Geo Tourism and Astro Tourism which we hope will attract new visitors to Sandstone. The astronomy dome and telescope are now set up and operating after several years of planning. A new heritage park is also coming together with some old items of equipment being donated for inclusion.

Council

The extraordinary election after the resignation of Kerry Key has been held with Vicki McQuie elected unopposed. Vicki is new to local government but her husband and father in law have

both had terms on Council previously. The Sandstone Council is now made up of 4 women and 2 men.

Harry Hawkins
Chief Executive Officer

7.2



STAFF

Staff change overs continue to be an issue in our remote location. Ina Edwardson, the DCEO, resigned her position after 6 months leaving the Shire at the end of February 2018. Fortunately Rose Jones has taken up the role from 3rd April 2018. Rose has a number of years in senior positions within Local Government with the added advantage of having lived in the area for a few years.

The looming retirement of 3 other staff members has meant we are currently undertaking the recruitment of an administration staff member and a plant operator.

PLANT

We will be purchasing a dolly, loader, and generator. We are also considering the purchase of a 2.5t excavator.

PROJECTS

Major projects being undertaken this year are the conversion of the Berindarra Cue Road back to gravel. The road survey has been completed as well as a draft design. This construction will go out to tender before the end of the financial year.

The SKA Road project continues to progress with some delay being experienced relating to international funding.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

The Community Christmas Party was well attended.

The Shire held its Annual Electors Meeting on the 3rd February 2018. General Business allowed the community to put forward a number of ideas which Council has acted on. One of those ideas was a community group to review the Shire's logo and tag line. Council has adopted a new tag line which will be launched when the logo design is completed.

7.3

Email: pa@yalgoo.wa.gov.au

Shire of Yalgoo

37 Gibbons St

Yalgoo WA 6635



Report to Murchison Country Zone of WALGA



Meeting April 2018

05/04/2018

Morawa Rd

R2R funds have been utilised to widen another 9.5km of this road. This has given a 7 meter seal to 20km of the Yalgoo end and will continue over the coming years to provide a safer road for this popular route.

Arts Centre Yalgoo

A new committee is working hard to get the ground work complete for a successful opening. The centre will initially be opened for 3 days a week which will commence for the wildflower season. We will be looking for programs to deliver support for the community and showcase our region.

Finance/Software

The new software system (OZONE) is now operational and is providing great outcomes already. This has enabled more work to be done in house and has resulted in a \$70k saving per annum in external fees.

Oval/Rifle Range project

Earthworks, fencing, irrigation and turf installation is completed. The tender for the Pavilion was awarded to Modular WA at the March ordinary meeting and delivery is expected in 4 months time. Earthworks for the rifle range are underway and are awaiting Horizon Power to install the permanent supply for the irrigation and pavilion. This \$1M BBR project will provide exceptional facilities to those in Yalgoo and the surrounding region for sport and recreational use.

Depot Works

A new 48m x 20m shed has been completed at the depot. This will provide valuable protection to our large fleet items such as loaders, graders and trucks.

Silvio Brenzi

Chief Executive Officer

Shire of Yalgoo

7.4



April 2018 Report

Tourism

Tourist Park bookings are slightly down on the previous season, reflecting the general downturn in WA tourism. After reasonable rains, it is hoped the wildflowers will give a far better display than last season.



The Cue Community & Visitor Centre received recognition at the WA Heritage Awards held in Perth on Friday, 23 March. Declared winner in the category of Adaptive Reuse of a State Registered Place, the facility was also chosen to receive the Gerry Gauntlett Award for Excellence in Conservation or Adaptive Reuse.



Major Road Works

WANDRRA funded works to repair damage caused to the Beebyn-Karbar Road during January 2017 rain events are halted temporarily while works are completed on Beringarra-Cue Road.

The demand for maintenance grading of roads on mine access routes is rapidly increasing and is keeping the Shire's workforce, and local contractors, very busy.

The delivery of the State Black Spot project at the intersection of Marshall Street and the Great Northern Highway (Austin Street) is finally nearing completion. The garden bed wall has been installed

	<p>and new entries into the roadhouse defined. Pathways and kerbing in this area will be completed during the annual footpath program, bringing this project to completion.</p>
Administration	<p>Finishing touches to the administration office have now been completed with stone repairs and external painting. The next item for attention is an upgraded telephone system.</p> <p>Tracy Bachraty (Customer Service Officer) has replaced Kim Ryan who is now at the Shire of Mount Magnet.</p>
Economic Development	<p>Westgold's operations are escalating, with the first gold being poured at Tuckabianna. It is pleasing to hear from an increasing number of locals that they have obtained employment with the company. Local contractors, as well as those from further afield, are increasingly seen in town patronising local businesses.</p> <p>Big Bell Gold Operations' proposed lease to enable construction of a haul road and power transmission lines stretching approximately 55 kilometres from Big Bell to Tuckabianna is currently awaiting an objection hearing which has been deferred until May.</p> <p>The Queen of the Murchison B&B is benefiting from its new ownership with renovations and room upgrades continuing, resulting in great feedback from guests. The coffee shop is popular, as is the al fresco dining for the traffic watchers.</p> <p>Development of the Cue Roadhouse is progressing slowly.</p>
Town Maintenance	<p>The new fence at the town oval was partially destroyed by a roof blown from a nearby house during a severe storm. The damaged sections have since been replaced. During the storm, several trees were uprooted and power lines damaged, keeping Horizon Power contractors busy with emergency repairs. Unlike the previous storm of this kind to hit Cue, damage to Shire assets was minimal.</p> <p>The development of a bowling green in the enclosed area at the Shire Hall is nearing completion, with the surface having recently been completed in Greenguage carpet. Shire staff and contractors have completed retaining walls and brick paving, with just a small amount of landscaping and some fencing required to have the area ready for action.</p> <p>Horizon Power have completed a replacement program for various street light poles throughout town and installed new lights at the Cue Roadhouse intersection.</p> <p>Sims Metal transported their car crusher to Cue and have collected car bodies and scrap steel from the refuse site, while also enabling the Shire to tidy up a number of known dump sites on the common.</p> <p>Main Roads WA will be reconstructing and resurfacing the main</p>

street through Cue, commencing on 1 May.

7.5 WALGA Murchison Zone Meeting; April 2018

Activities and issues - Shire of Meekatharra

Major Issues

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.

Meekatharra District Hospital replacement is urgent. Built in 1954, the Meekatharra Hospital must be replaced as a matter of highest priority.

Human Resources

A new position of Assistant Finance Officer was created during the recent management structure review along with some other minor changes. Records Officer to be recruited. All other positions are currently filled.

Land/Buildings

Most maintenance and upgrades for the year have been completed including capital improvements to staff housing of \$500,000. Installation of external CCTV cameras to all 22 Shire Residences completed.

Road Construction & Equipment

Natural Disaster remedial works continue throughout the shire with tenders awarded to two contractors. The Royalties for Regions, Regional Infrastructure and Headworks Fund (Mid West Investment Plan) project to continue the upgrading and sealing of a further 20 kms of the Landor Road is complete. This was a \$5M project over 3 years.

Pad Foot Vibe Roller replaced.

Promotions/Events

Planning is well under way for this year's Meeka Festival/Race weekend over the long weekend September 21 – 24. Council has approved the budget for this years event.

Governance/Admin/Finance

The 2018/19 Budget preparations are under way with the Differential Rating Structure endorsed in April for ministerial approval and the Statutory Budget to be adopted in June.

7.6



SHIRE OF MOUNT MAGNET Activity Report – April 2018

Projects

Council has been advised that Gascoyne Resources are scheduled to commence production at their newly constructed Dalgara Gold Mine in June 2018. The mine life expectancy is approximately 6 years. Construction of the site was recently completed that included the mine production areas, on-site camp accommodation and the airstrip. The project is entirely FIFO in regards to employees and will also fly out gold bar production. Council is in the process of negotiating a 'Road Access and Maintenance' agreement with the company in regard to the use of the Mt Farmer Road for the project.

Badimia Land Aboriginal Corporation and Wirnda Barna Arts have signed a lease with Council to occupy the premises at Hepburn Street that will allow for the production and sale of Wirnda Barna arts to recommence. WACRH are also intending to share occupation of the premises.

Human Resources

Council appointed its new CEO, Mr Kelvin Matthews who commenced duties on 29 January 2018. The other staff movements in the Shire since the last meeting have been the appointment of a Finance Officer and Customer Services Officer. Council also recently engaged a School Based Trainee from the Mt Magnet District High School (MMDHS) who will undertake a Certificate 2 in Horticultural Studies. The duration of the traineeship is 18 months with 1 day p/week being on-the-job training with Councils Parks & Gardens crew.

Governance

Council recently commenced a comprehensive review of its Local Laws that were outdated circa 2002/03 well past the legislative timeframe of 8 years for review. The local laws for review include:

- Standing Orders
- Fencing
- Waste
- Health
- Extractive Industries
- Cemeteries
- Animals, Environment & Nuisance
- Cats
- Dogs
- Bush Fire Brigades
- Thoroughfares, Public Places & Trading, and
- Repeal

Council will resolve to advertise the draft local laws for the required period at its next scheduled Ordinary Meeting on 27/4/18.

Council made a submission to the recent Commonwealth Senate Standing Committees on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport - Inquiry Into The Operation, Regulation and Funding of Air Route Service Delivery to Rural, Regional and Remote Communities.

Tourism

Visitations to/through Mt Magnet have been quiet during the off season with very few tourists recorded as staying in Mt Magnet, although this is expected to change as the tourism season starts. The CEO and Cr Morrissey attended the Geo Tourism workshop held recently in Geraldton that was coordinated by the Mid West Development Commission (MWDC) and facilitated by Prof Ross Dowling. From this 2 day workshop it was resolved that site visit workshops will be scheduled for late June/early July by Prof Dowling and the MWDC to each of the Murchison Shires involved in the project.

Civil Works and Plant

Council recently completed the major resealing works in the Mt Magnet townsite of Richardson, Laurie and Carroll Streets that was primarily undertaken by contractors with logistical support provided by Council. This project also included secondary minor maintenance works around the streets such as some kerbing and driveway rehabilitation.

Community Activities

Clean Up Australia Day in Mt Magnet was successful with Council again coordinating the clean up of rubbish around the town as well in areas around the town perimeter such as The Common. In particular this included the collection and disposal of abandoned vehicles, caravans and sheds that were relocated

to the Waste Landfill Site (WLS). In this regard Sims Metals were contracted to crush and remove the vehicles from the WLS in early April.

Council coordinated its 2018 Australia Day function at the Mt Magnet Memorial Swimming Pool with activities for the children and a 'Big Day BBQ' event that was well received by the community.

Thank you

Kelvin Matthews
Chief Executive Officer



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MORNING TEA 10.35am – 11.05am

Health Issues

Mr Andrew Klein District Operations Manager and Mr Paul Mceleny A/Regional Director of Nursing and Midwifery.

Health will be working with GRAMS – 50 per cent of their customers are non Aboriginal people. A private medical practice will be setting up in Meekatharra shortly.

Only four people visited the Cue Nursing post in a week.

There is a difficulty in attracting staff to all health services.

\$1.6 million has been allocated for Mental Health services in the Midwest region.

Meekatharra and Mount Magnet are high in priority for upgrading of health facilities.

Discussed various new health programs that have been introduced in the last two years.

RFDS services are available in emergency situations.

ST John Ambulance

Mr Aaron and Julian Smith

Outlined the history and development of St John. They receive grants from the Lotteries Commission.

Volunteer Sub Centres do not receive funding from the State Government.

There is a \$16m shortfall in country operations.

Communities must support the St John Ambulance volunteers.

Last year Yalgoo had 14 cases of St John use.

They work with WACHS on locations of St John facilities.

Trained 386,000 people in first aid training.

They have a 14% growth in services.

Change is inevitable – Ageing/growing population and a greater spread of population.

St John is solution focussed, ensuring communities are first aid safe.

Jenny Allen – NGALA

Jenny outlined her role and they provide assistance with family support (Children 0 -18 years) Adults should be strong to meet the communities needs.

They have Early Years network with Local Government. There is a Midwest Early Years network.

Services include:-

Parenting Line

Parenting Connection – Midwest

Various fee service programs (professional development services)

Luncheon Break 12.35pm to 1.40pm

Hon Robin Scott MLC

Thanked for the invitation to attend the meeting.

MRI Machine being negotiated for Kalgoorlie.

He noted that upgrading of the Meekatharra to Wiluna Road had still not been carried out.

Kalgoorlie suffers from FIFO which has effected population levels.

He is seeking to reduce the payroll tax for companies outside the metropolitan area.

Grant Brock Westgold Resources (Purely West Australian)

Plan to establish a centralised processing facility.

Mining commenced in 2015 at Bluebird – Meekatharra.

A lot of mining sites to be developed (Both underground and open cut)

A total of 25mw of power required to operate these mines.

Gas options being considered. Natural gas in Mount Magnet (Under utilised)

Gas pipe from Mount Magnet to Meekatharra, using the 200m road reserve is estimated to cost \$30m.

Up to 1,000 people could be employed at their sites. Most employees prefer FIFO, however opportunities will encourage local based employees.

Mr George Heald – CSIRO

The meeting was given a presentation on progress with the SKA and RMO project in the Murchison.

EMERGING ISSUES AS NOTIFIED/PERMITTED BY THE PRESIDENT

MURCHISON ZONE

Dear One and All

I wanted to firstly apologise for my absence from your first meeting of 2018 and advise you all of my new position within the Department of Communities which began in March.

This forum has been an enabler for the Murchison since its inception. For myself professionally and personally, this Zone meeting referred to as Cue Parliament has greatly assisted in developing both an understanding and empathy of the region's issues but perhaps even more so provides you all with a strong foundation for positive and collaborative change across the entire Murchison subregion.

I wish you all well for this meeting and beyond and have no doubt within my new role I will see many of you again soon.

In the meantime thank you for your tolerance, sharing and your passion over the past 13 years for what I now refer to fondly as, "The Magical, Mystical, Magnificent Murchison"

Your humble servant always

Brendin Flanigan
Regional Coordinator Midwest Gascoyne
Department of Communities Regional Reform Unit

Recommendation

Letter of Appreciation to Mr Brendin Flanigan – formally of MWDC

Recommend that this Zone write a letter of appreciation to Mr Brendin Flanigan for his services to the six shires in the Murchison Region.

Resolution

Letter of Appreciation to Mr Brendin Flanigan – formally of MWDC

Recommend that this Zone write a letter of appreciation to Mr Brendin Flanigan for his services to the six shires in the Murchison Region.

Moved Cr Morris

Seconded Mr Madson

CARRIED.

Flying Agenda – WALGA Agenda 5th May 2018

That the Murchison Country Zone agree to all recommendations contained in the May 2018 WALGA agenda, with only a change to recommendation in item 5.5 (Community Resource Centres)

WALGA write to the relevant Ministers and Agencies to stress the sectors absolute dismay at the potential loss of vital support services provided by Community Resource Centres to rural, regional and remote communities as a result of the proposed reduction of funding.

Carried

NEXT MEETING:

Moved Cr Trenfield

Seconded Cr Kanny

That the next meeting of the Murchison Country Zone be held in Cue on Friday 2nd November 2018.

CARRIED

Meeting Closure

There being no further business for discussion the President thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 3.00pm.

That Minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Murchison Country Zone meeting held on 2nd November 2018.

Cr Rossco Foulkes-Taylor
Zone President