



MINUTES

ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

to be held on

Thursday, 19 June 2025 at 3:00pm

at the

**Shire of Morawa Council Chambers,
26 Winfield Street, Morawa**



**WESTERN AUSTRALIA'S
WILDFLOWER COUNTRY**

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DISCLOSURE OF FINANCIAL/ IMPARTIALITY/ PROXIMITY INTERESTS

*Local Government Act 1995 – Section 5.65, 5.70 and 5.71 Local
Government (Administration) Regulation 34C*

| | | | |
|--|--|-----------|--------------|
| <i>This form is provided to enable members and officers to disclose an Interest in a matter in accordance with the regulations of Section 5.65, 5.70 and 5.71 of the Local Government Act and Local Government (Administration) Regulation 34C</i> | | | |
| Name of person declaring the interest | | | |
| Position | | | |
| Date of Meeting | | | |
| Type of Meeting (Please circle one) | Council Meeting/ Committee Meeting/ Special Council Meeting Workshop/ Public Agenda Briefing/ Confidential Briefing | | |
| Interest Disclosed | | | |
| Item Number and Title | | | |
| Nature of Interest | | | |
| Type of Interest (please circle one) | Financial | Proximity | Impartiality |
| Interest Disclosed | | | |
| Item Number and Title | | | |
| Nature of Interest | | | |
| Type of Interest (please circle one) | Financial | Proximity | Impartiality |
| Interest Disclosed | | | |
| Item Number and Title | | | |
| Nature of Interest | | | |
| Type of Interest (please circle one) | Financial | Proximity | Impartiality |

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Important Note:

Should you declare a **Financial** or **Proximity** Interest, in accordance with the Act and Regulations noted above, you are required to leave the room while the item is being considered.

For an **Impartiality** Interest, you must state the following prior to the consideration of the item:

"With regard to agenda item (read item number and title), I disclose that I have an impartiality interest because (read your reason for interest). As a consequence, there may be a perception that my impartiality on the matter may be affected. I declare that I will consider this matter on its merits and vote accordingly."

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Item 1 Opening of Meeting

The President to declare the meeting open at 3.00pm.

Item 2 Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners and Dignitaries

The President acknowledges the traditional custodians, the Yamatji people, and recognises the contribution of Yamatji Elder's past, present and future, in working together for the future of Morawa.

Item 3 Recording of Attendance**3.1 Attendance****Council – In Person Attendance**

President (Presiding Member) Councillor Karen Chappel
Deputy President Councillor Ken Stokes
Councillor Grant Chadwick
Councillor Dean Clemson
Councillor Mark Coaker
Councillor Debbie Collins

Staff – Attendance

Chief Executive Officer
Exec Manager Corporate and Community Services
A/Executive Manager

Michael Cole
Bradley Douglas
Stuart Taylor

Members of the Public

Nil

3.2 Apologies

Councillor Diana North

3.4 Approved Leave of Absence

Nil

3.5 Disclosure of Interests

Nil

Item 4 Applications for Leave of Absence

Nil

Item 5 Response to Previous Questions

Nil

Item 6 Public Question Time

Nil

Item 7 Questions from Members without Notice

Nil

Item 8 Announcements by Presiding Member without Discussion

President's Meetings for the month of May 2025.

| Date | Details of Meeting |
|------------|---|
| 01/05/2025 | ANZAC Service at Morawa District High School |
| 01/05/2025 | Office of the Auditor General Local Government Road Maintenance Performance Audit |
| 02/05/2025 | Meeting with Hon Meredith Hammat MLA, Minister for Health |
| 05/05/2025 | Australian Local Government Association Executive Meeting |
| 06/05/2025 | Rural West Board Meeting |
| 06/05/2025 | Meeting with Hon Reece Whitby MLA, Minister for Police, Road Safety and Tourism |
| 09/05/2025 | Australian Local Government Association Board Meeting |
| 14/05/2025 | Meeting with Lachlan Hunter MLA, Shadow Minister for Agriculture and Food; Racing and Gaming |
| 15/05/2025 | Shire of Morawa Ordinary Council Meeting |
| 23/05/2025 | LGIS Board Meeting |
| 23/05/2025 | Mayors and Presidents Forum |
| 27/05/2025 | Meeting with Hon Simone McGurk MLA, Minister Creative Industries; Heritage; Industrial Relations; Aged Care and Senior; Women |
| 27/05/2025 | Meeting with Hon John Carey MLA, Minister of Planning and Lands; Housing Works; Health Infrastructure |
| 28/05/2025 | WA Women's Hall of Fame 15 th Anniversary Event |
| 29/05/2025 | WALGA Finance Services Meeting |
| 30/05/2025 | Local Government House Trust Meeting |

Item 9 Declaration by all Members to have given due consideration to All Matters Contained in the Business Paper before the Meeting

The Elected Members to declare that they had given due consideration to all matters contained in the minutes.

- President (Presiding Member) Councillor Karen Chappel
- Deputy President Councillor Ken Stokes
- Councillor Grant Chadwick
- Councillor Dean Clemson
- Councillor Mark Coaker
- Councillor Debbie Collins

Item 10 Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the 15 May 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting were provided under separate cover via the Shire of Morawa's secure portal to all Councillors on 19 May 2025.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION/ RESOLUTION**250601****Moved: Cr Stokes****Seconded: Cr Collins**

That Council confirm that:

1. the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held 15 May 2025 are a true and correct record.

CARRIED BY SIMPLY MAJORITY 6/0

Disclaimer

Members of the public are cautioned against taking any action on Council decisions, on items in this agenda in which they may have an interest, until formal notification in writing from the Shire has been received. Decisions made at this meeting can be revoked pursuant to the Local Government Act 1995.

Item 11 Reports of Officers**11.1 Chief Executive Officer****11.1.1 Actions Performed under Delegated Authority for May 2025**

Author: Executive Assistant

Authorising Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Disclosure of Interest: The Author/Authorising Officer declares that they do not have any conflict of interest in relation to this item.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION/ RESOLUTION

250602

Moved: Cr Coaker

Seconded: Cr Collins

That with respect to Actions Performed under Delegated Authority for May 2025, that Council:

1. Accept the Report.

CARRIED BY SIMPLE MAJORITY 6/0

PURPOSE

To report back to Council, actions performed under delegated authority from the period 01 May 2025 to 31 May 2025.

DETAIL

To increase transparency this report has been prepared for Council and includes all actions performed under delegated authority for –

- Development Approvals;
- Building Permits;
- Health Approvals;
- One off delegations to the Chief Executive Officer;
- Dangerous Goods;
- Affixing of Common Seal;
- Other Delegations as provided for in the Delegations Register.

The following outlines the actions performed within the Shire relative to Delegated Authority from the period 01 May 2025 to 31 May 2025 ('the period') and are submitted to Council for information.

Bushfire

No delegated decisions were undertaken by Shire pursuant to bushfire matters during the period.

Caravan parks and campgrounds

No delegated decisions were undertaken by Shire pursuant to caravan parks and camping grounds during the period.

Common Seal

No Common Seal actions were undertaken by the Shire during the period.

Dangerous Goods Safety Act 2004

No delegated decisions were undertaken by Shire pursuant to Dangerous Goods Safety matters during the period.

Food Act 2008

| <i>Date of decision</i> | <i>Decision Ref.</i> | <i>Decision details</i> | <i>Applicant</i> | <i>Other affected person(s)</i> |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| 19/05/2025 | 2025/002 | Temporary Food Stall Permit | Morawa Speedway | |

Hawkers, traders, and stall holders

No delegated decisions were undertaken by Shire pursuant to hawkers, traders, and stall holders during this period.

Liquor Control Act 1988

No delegated decisions were undertaken by Shire pursuant to liquor matters during the period.

Lodging houses

No delegated decisions were undertaken by Shire pursuant to lodging house matters during the period.

Public Buildings

No delegated decisions were undertaken by Shire pursuant to public buildings matters during the period.

Septic Tank Approvals

No delegated decisions were undertaken by Shire pursuant to the Health Act 1911 and Health (Treatment of Sewage and Disposal of Effluent Waste) Regulations 1974 during the period.

Planning Approval

No delegated decisions were undertaken by Shire pursuant to planning approval matters during the period.

Building Permits

| <i>Date of decision</i> | <i>Decision Ref.</i> | <i>Decision details</i> | <i>Applicant</i> | <i>Other affected person(s)</i> |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| 01/05/2025 | 25/05 | Demolition of 4 Evans Street, Morawa | Bellaluca Construction and Stone Pty Ltd | |
| 01/05/2025 | 25/06 | Demolition of 4 Granville St, Morawa | Bellaluca Construction and Stone Pty Ltd | |
| 01/05/2025 | 25/07 | Demolition of 75 Dreghorn St, Morawa | Bellaluca Construction and Stone Pty Ltd | |

Other Delegations

| <i>Date of decision</i> | <i>Decision Ref.</i> | <i>Decision details</i> | <i>Applicant</i> | <i>Other affected person(s)</i> |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| 19/05/2025 | | Morawa Speedway Public Event | Shirley Katona (Morawa Speedway) | |

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

Low – report provided to Council for information purposes.

CONSULTATION

Nil

LEGISLATION AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Building Act 2011
Bushfire Act 1954
Dangerous Goods Safety (Explosives) Regulations 2007
Health Act 1991
Health Act 1911
Health (Public Buildings) Regulations 1992
Liquor Control Act 1988
Local Government Act 1995
Planning & Development Act 2005
Shire of Morawa Local Planning Scheme No. 2
Shire of Morawa Cemeteries 2018 - Local Law
Shire of Morawa Dogs 2018 - Local Law
Shire of Morawa Extractive Industries 2018 - Local Law
Shire of Morawa Fencing 2018 Local Law
Shire of Morawa Health 2004 - Local Law

Shire of Morawa Public Places and Local Government Property 2018 - Local Law
Shire of Morawa Meeting Procedures 2012 - Local Law
Shire of Morawa Waste 2018 - Local Law
Shire of Morawa Delegations Register (2025)

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

There are no known financial implications relating to this Item.

RISK MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

There are no known risk management implications relating to this Item.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

11.1.2 Adoption of Strategic Community Plan – Desktop Review

Author: Chief Executive Officer

Authorising Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Disclosure of Interest: The Author and Authorising Officer declare that they do not have any conflicts of interest in relation to this item.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION/ RESOLUTION

250603

Moved: Cr Stokes

Seconded: Cr Coaker

That Council:

- 1. Adopt the revised Shire of Morawa Strategic Community Plan 2022 - 2032 Desktop Review as provided in Attachment 1; and**
- 2. Direct the CEO to give Local Public Notice of the adoption of the new Strategic Community Plan**

CARRIED BY ABSOLUTE MAJORITY 6/0

PURPOSE

The Shire's current Strategic Community Plan 2022 – 2032 was adopted by Council in August 2022. In line with the Department of Local Government, Communities and Arts Integrated Planning and Reporting Guidelines, Council is to conduct a desktop (minor) review every two years and legislation stipulates a major review every four years of which community consultation is required. A desktop review has been conducted with a major review planned for 2026.

DETAIL

The Strategic Community Plan (SCP) is one document in a suite of documents that form the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework (IPR) and is closely aligned, with the Long-Term Financial Plan, Workforce Plan, Asset Management Plans and the Annual Report. Amendments made in the SCP will flow through into the Corporate Business Plan (CBP).

The desktop review resulted in minor changes only to the community trends section, with information updated from Census data. There are no other changes proposed to the SCP.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

High – the Strategic Community Plan provides extensive guidance to Council in relation to the implementation of the IPR.

CONSULTATION

Councillors

Senior Management Team

LEGISLATION AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Local Government Act 1995

Section 5.56. Planning for the Future

(1) A local government is to plan for the future of the district.

(2) A local government is to ensure that plans made under subsection (1) are in accordance with any regulations made about planning for the future of the district.

Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996

19C. Strategic community plans, requirements for (Act s. 5.56)

(1) A local government is to ensure that a strategic community plan is made for its district in accordance with this regulation in respect of each financial year after the financial year ending 30 June 2013.

Strategic Community Plan 2022 - 2032

Be future focused in all we do:

1. Ensure the Shire and its assets are well resourced and sustainable.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

There are no known financial or resource implications in relation to this review in excess of officer time and minor administrative costs.

RISK MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

There are no known risk management implications in relation to this item.

CONCLUSION

In line with the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework regarding Strategic Community Plans, the Shire has conducted a desktop review. The review of the SCP alternates between the minor and major versions.

The minor version is a desktop review process conducted every two years and focuses on resetting the CBP. The major version conducted every four years involves re-engagement with the community on vision, outcomes and priorities, and a comprehensive review of the whole IPR suite.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – 11.1.2 Strategic Community Plan 2022–2032 Desktop Review

11.1.3 Proposed Road Closure – Nanekine Road, Canna

Author: Coordinator Planning & Compliance Services

Authorising Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Disclosure of Interest: The Author and Authorising Officer declare that they do not have any conflicts of interest in relation to this item.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION/ RESOLUTION

250604

Moved: Cr Stokes

Seconded: Cr Coaker

That Council:

1. Request the Minister for Lands to approve the closure and amalgamation of a portion of Nanekine Road Reserve as shown on the proposed road closure plan Drawing No. 18724AS1-1-0.

CARRIED BY SIMPLE MAJORITY 6/0

PURPOSE

For Council to request the Minister of Lands to approve the closure and subsequent amalgamation of a portion of the Nanekine Road Reserve adjacent to Lot 3, Plan 006277, Vol 2033 Folio 388.

DETAIL

The Shire has received a request for the closure and subsequent amalgamation of a portion of the Nanekine Road Reserve adjacent to Lot 3, Plan 006277, Vol 2033 Folio 388.

A copy of the proposed road closure plan is contained in *Attachment 1*.



A portion of road reserve on Nanekine Road, Canna, shown in the below image as the area of the road reserve that deviates to the top of the image as being an area larger than the general reserve area.

The original survey of the area in 1919 indicates that the road reserve was aligned in this location to contain the “Indar Soak”.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

Low significance

CONSULTATION

The closure was advertised in accordance with the provisions of the Land Administration Act 1997 and involved the following:

- A notice was published in the Dongara Denison Local paper;
- A copy of the closure was made available for public inspection at the Shire office;
- The closure was published on the Shire’s website; and
- A written notice was sent to the following Government/Service Agencies:
 - Alinta Energy
 - Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage
 - Telstra
 - Water Corporation
 - Western Power

In response to the advertising a total of 2 submissions were received with no objections raised.

LEGISLATION AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Section 58 of the Land Administration Act 1997 enables a local government to request the Minister for Lands to permanently close a public road. Regulation 9 of the *Land Administration Regulations 1998* details the information that must accompany such a request.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

Nil, the applicant will be responsible for the payment of all costs associated with the closure and amalgamation process.

RISK MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Low

CONCLUSION

Overall, it is assessed that the proposed closure will have no adverse impacts on the streetscape or locality of Nanekine Road, Canna. There are no services that will be affected by the closure and it is considered that the closure complies with the requirements of orderly and proper planning.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – 11.1.3 Nanekine Road Proposed Road Closure

11.1.4 Setting of Differential Rates for 2025/26

Author: Chief Executive Officer

Authorising Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Disclosure of Interest: The Author and Authorising Officer declare that they do not have any conflicts of interest in relation to this item.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION/ RESOLUTION**250605****Moved: Cr Stokes****Seconded: Cr Coaker**

Suspended Standing Orders at 3:07pm

Moved: Cr Stokes

Seconded: Cr Chappel, Carried 6/0

Resumed Standing Orders at 3:10pm

Moved: Cr Stokes

Seconded: Cr Collins, Carried 6/0

That Council:

1. Notes the consideration of the efficiency measures listed in this report and in the Statement of Objects and Reasons (Attachment 2) used in the development of the Draft Budget for the 2025-2026 Financial Year;
2. Adopt the Statement of Objects and Reasons for each Differential and Minimum Rate for 2025-2026;
3. Pursuant to sections 6.32, 6.33 and 6.35 of the Local Government Act 1995, adopt a 4.0% rate in the dollar increase to the GRV category to form the basis of the proposed rate setting for the 2025-2026 Budget;
4. Pursuant to sections 6.32, 6.33 and 6.35 of the Local Government Act 1995, adopt a 12.49% decrease in the rate in the dollar for the UV Rural category to form the basis of the proposed rate setting for the 2025-2026 Budget;
5. Pursuant to sections 6.32, 6.33 and 6.35 of the Local Government Act 1995, adopt a 4.0% increase to the minimum rates for the GRV and UV Rural categories to form the basis of the proposed rate setting for the 2025-2026 Budget;
6. Pursuant to sections 6.32, 6.33 and 6.35 of the Local Government Act 1995, adopt a 0.04% reduction in the rate in the dollar and 4.0% minimum rate increase across the UV Mining category to form the basis of the proposed rate setting for the 2025-2026 budget as detailed below:

| <i>Rate Type</i> | <i>Rate in the Dollar (Cents)</i> | <i>Minimum Payment</i> |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| GRV Residential / Commercial | 9.1876 | \$369 |
| UV Rural | 1.6570 | \$369 |
| UV Mining | 30.0660 | \$710 |

7. Adopt the Rates Discount amount of 1.5% for prompt payment.
8. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to advertise the proposed Differential Rates for 2025-2026 and call for submissions in accordance with the Local Government Act 1995 Section 6.36 - for a minimum of 21 days.
9. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to seek ministerial approval under Section 6.33 of the Local Government Act 1995 to impose differential rates at the end of the advertising period, subject to no submissions being received.

CARRIED BY ABSOLUTE MAJORITY 6/0

PURPOSE

This report is for Council to adopt the 2025-2026 financial year Rates Model in advance of the 2025-2026 Annual Budget being adopted in order to gain approvals for the Shire's system of differential rating.

DETAIL

As Council is proposing to adopt differential rates it will be necessary to advertise the proposed rates in accordance with s6.36 of the Local Government Act 1995, review any submission/s received and authorise the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to apply for ministerial approval prior to the adoption of the budget or imposition of any such rate.

As part of the budget deliberations and rate setting process Council must also review and adopt the Statement of Objects and Reason for its' rating strategy.

Council must also show that it has reviewed its' expenditure and considered efficiency measures as part of its budget deliberations.

A local government may impose differential general rates based on the predominant purpose for which the land is held or used. Ministerial approval will need to be obtained to impose a differential rate which is more than twice the lowest general rate imposed.

Council is required, as part of the differential rating process, to consider budget efficiencies so that it is not just automatically relying on differential rates without looking for alternative options. The effect of having no differential rates – would be a negative impact on revenue of approximately \$285,312. It is unfeasible to save the level of income required from efficiencies alone.

The GRV rating category received its five yearly revaluation in May 2024 with property values increasing for the 2024/2025 financial year. In 2024/25 there was no increase in the GRV rate in

the dollar, however the full revaluation change was passed on. This was considered consistent with how the Shire has managed GRV and UV revaluations over the last five years.

While there is no general increase in GRV properties for 2025-26, the Office of the Valuer General has advised that the UV annual revaluations have resulted in an average increase of \$18.91% across UV rural properties.

For 2025-26, Administration has proposed a 12.49% decrease to the UV Rural rate in the dollar in order to smooth UV rural revaluations this year. This still represents an average rate increase of 4.0% for UV rural properties.

The rate in the dollar modifications have been suggested to allow Council to maintain the current level of services and be in line with the objectives of the adopted Strategic Community Plan 2022 – 2032 (SCP), Strategic Resource Plan 2022-2037 and draft Corporate Business Plan 2025 – 2035 (CBP).

Matters Considered as part of the Budget Process

In the review of the rate increase for the 2025-2026 Budget, Council has considered a range of issues impacting the development of the draft budget including:

- The validity or relevance of the rates increase proposed in the current Strategic Resource Plan 2022-2037.
- The draft Corporate Business Plan 2025-2035.
- The Strategic Community Plan 2022-2032.
- The impact of the agricultural season and the economic changes in the mining industry.
- Whether differential rating was applicable for 2025-2026 as required by the Department of Local Government, Sport & Cultural Industries (DLGSC) Rating Policy Differential Rates.
- The Shire's asset management plans including key capital costs going forward.
- Budget efficiencies as required by the DLGSC Rating Policy Differential Rates.
- Supply constraints in material and labour continue to place upward pressure on prices.
- The continuing reduction/tightening of available grants and the increased number of councils chasing the reduced amounts of funding available.
- The tight labour markets.
- The Local Government Cost Index (LGCI) was forecasted at 3.6% in March 2025 and then expected to decrease by 0.3% for the 2025-2026 year.
- The Consumer Price Indicator rose in Perth to 2.8% in March with the CPI inflation expected to remain steady at 2.8% for the full year.

In recognition of the difficult circumstances that Council has faced this year, and with the expected continuation of higher than average costs it is recommended to Council that:

- Rates in the dollar (RID) and minimums for GRV are increased by 4.0%
- Rates in the dollar (RID) for UV Rural are decreased by 12.49% and minimums increased by 4.0%
- The rates discount percentage be maintained at 1.5% being approximate \$36,000 reduction to the rates income.
- Penalty interest is to remain at the reduced rate of 5.5%. This is the same as implemented last year and will potentially raise around \$24,000.
- Annual charges increased by 4.5%
- Fees and Charges – no increases to most Council controlled items with the remainder generally increasing by 4%.

Changes in Property Values

There has been no revaluation to GRV properties this year.

As advised by the Valuer General the total rateable value of all UV rural properties from 1 July 2025 is \$155,703,727, up from \$130,942,500.

Matters Regarding Differential Rating and Minimums

The Statement of Objects and Reasons for Differential Rating - Attachment 2 - has been reviewed and amended and needs to be adopted by Council so that it can form the basis of the rationale for the rating strategy and be made available to interested parties as part of the advertising requirement of the intention to impose differential rates.

Budget Efficiencies

Where the Shire can implement efficiencies, they will be included in the Draft Budget and have been used when determining the increase to the rates revenue for 2025-2026.

Efficiency measures considered are:

- Ongoing assessment of the Organisational structure;
- Review of position descriptions, remuneration and need for the position as vacancies arise;
- Consideration of outsourcing and use of short-term contractors for specialized projects;
- The recovery of outstanding debts including rates and sundry debtors;
- Exploring shared service arrangements;
- Ongoing review of service levels;
- Continued use of local suppliers whenever possible and appropriate: and
- Conduct budget reviews each financial year.

With the increases to costs expected to continue over the next 12 to 24 months any efficiencies gained are offset by:

- Award wage increases of 5% (predicted)
- Increase to insurance expenses of up to 8%
- Utility Cost increases (to be determined)
- Higher costs for materials and contractors estimated at 10%
- Tight labour market placing pressure on the Shire to offer above award wages
- Overall increase to expenditure of up to 4%

As such the general budget has been made more efficient to accommodate increases outside of the Shire's control.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

High significance – Setting the 2025-2026 rate in the dollar (RID) is a significant part of the development of the 2025-2026 budget.

CONSULTATION

CEO Briefing Forum / Workshop – 15 May 2025

LEGISLATION AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

- S6.33 (1) of the Local Government Act 1995

- Financial Management Regulation 52A - a local government may impose a differential rate.

An application to the Minister for Local Government is required for approval to impose a differential general rate under s6.33 (3) of the Local Government Act 1995 that is more than twice the lowest differential rate being imposed. The Shire's current UV Mining rate is 18 times the UV Rural rate.

Strategic Community Plan 2022 - 2032

Be future focused in all we do:

1. Ensure the Shire and its assets are well resourced and sustainable.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

For Council to maintain the service levels it prides itself on an increase to the rates revenue raised is required. While the revenue increases may seem high, the Shire's cost portfolio is constantly increasing and the current economic market is applying constant upward pressure. Thus without extra own source income the only option would be to reduce service provision.

RISK MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Financial Risk

The current differential rate levels pose a strategic risk to the Shire such that the Shire is reliant on Ministerial approval to maintain current differentials, this could cause budget delays or loss of income if the Minister withholds approval.

Compliance Risk

Under the Shire's risk governance framework non-compliance with the requirements regarding differential rates is a major risk – i.e. imposed penalties. Such a penalty would be imposed by the DLGSC. Through complying with the requirements of the DLGSC Rating Policy: Differential General Rates, the risk is mitigated from High to Low.

CONCLUSION

That Council adopts the Statement of Objects and Reasons as attached, adopts the proposed changes to the rates in the dollar and minimums for its rating categories, and advertises their intention to impose differential rates as required under legislation, prior to seeking Ministerial approval for the proposed rating categories.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Proposed Rates model for 2025-2026

Attachment 2 – Statement of Objectives and Reasons

11.1.5 Shire of Morawa Sewerage Asset Management Plan 2025 - 2035

Author: Chief Executive Officer

Authorising Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Disclosure of Interest: The Author and Authorising Officer declare that they do not have any conflicts of interest in relation to this item.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION/ RESOLUTION**250606****Moved: Cr Chadwick****Seconded: Cr Stokes**

That Council:

1. Adopt the Shire of Morawa Asset Management Plan 2025 - 2035.

CARRIED BY SIMPLE MAJORITY 6/0

PURPOSE

For Council to review and adopt the Shire of Morawa Sewerage Asset Management Plan 2025 – 2035 as presented in Attachment 1.

DETAIL

Talis Consultants were engaged to revise the Shire's Sewerage Asset Management Plan (AMP).

The AMP is intended to demonstrate responsible management of infrastructure assets managed by the Shire on behalf of its ratepayers and stakeholders.

The plan defines the services being provided, how the services are provided and what funds are required to provide the services over a 10-year planning period. This plan should be comprehensively revised every four-to-five year, or when significant changes to Council activities are identified.

In summary, Talis Consultants advised:

- The AMP is based on the most recent asset valuation in 2023
- The AMP and the valuation has been prepared without any field inspection or validation of the assumed asset consumption
- State of the assets:
 - The sewerage system is well constructed and conforming to water corporation standards. It has been designed for minimal human intervention.
 - The system has a number of built in redundancies, bypasses and emergency containment.

- The assets are about 50% consumed based on best estimate. Asset useful lives can be variable. It would be desirable for the Shire to undertake limited field inspections in the next few years to validate the expected life of the assets.
- Need/capacity
 - The system has redundant capacity for town growth. A new mining camp or something of similar order would need to be assessed
- Operational
 - It is recommended the operational guidelines are updated and WHS practices implemented.
 - Managing the system ought to be minimally complex and any failure will likely become apparent through a build up of odours and/or visible backing up of the system
 - Annual maintenance of the mechanical parts and pumps is essential
- Costs
 - Replacement costs and expected dates are based on the valuation. These look to be appropriate for the type of assets described in the documents
 - The current allocation to the sinking fund aligns with best estimate of expected need based on the valuation. There is a slight shortfall from underinvestment in earlier years. The Shire could increase funding to close the gap but this is not pressing. It would probably be better to wait until some inspections and validation of useful lives are completed.
 - The estimate of operational costs is an estimate only.
 - There is no allowance for breakdowns or problems. The assumption is that in case of breakdown the Shire will find appropriate funds from the reserve account or elsewhere rather than tie up funds in a contingency.
- Risk
 - In the risk analysis the highest risk is some form of health or WHS incident. Need to keep staff trained.
 - A secondary risk is an unexpected failure of the system. This might take the form of a blocked or burst pipe, power failure, a failed pump or some other failure. A contingency arrangement is suggested in the AMP (identify regionally based possible sewage haulage contractors, plumbers and contractors). The nature of the problem is likely to be something that can be relatively quickly fixed (days).
 - Another secondary risk is an environmental license breach, health issue or spill of some kind

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

High significance – The sewerage asset network is a significant asset for the Shire and poses a health risk to staff and the general public if it is not well maintained.

CONSULTATION

Senior Management Team
CEO

LEGISLATION AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Section 5.56(1) of the *Local Government Act 1995* states that a local government is to plan for the future of the district. Developing Asset Management Plans for key infrastructure assets such as the Shire's Sewerage network demonstrates planning for the future.

Strategic Community Plan 2022 - 2032

Be future focused in all we do:

1. Ensure the Shire and its assets are well resourced and sustainable.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

The AMP estimates expenditure of \$667,610 over the next 10 years, of \$55,761 pa on average. The outlays necessary to provide the services covered by this Asset Management Plan (AM Plan) includes operations, maintenance, renewal, and upgrade of existing assets.

RISK MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

There are risks associated with providing the service and not being able to complete all identified activities and projects.

The AMP identifies major risks as:

- health and safety risks to public and staff
- steadily deteriorating asset portfolio with increasing operational risks
- failure to set aside sufficient funds to meet replacement need in the future

We will endeavour to manage these risks within available funding by:

- Understanding services Council will deliver and what assets are required to facilitate delivery.
- Understanding whole of life costs when acquiring or renewing physical assets.
- Developing proactive/preventative renewal and maintenance programs and reducing reactive behaviours.

CONCLUSION

That Council adopt the Shire of Morawa Sewerage Asset Management Plan 2025 – 2035.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – 11.1.5 Shire of Morawa Sewerage Asset Management Plan 2025 - 2035

11.2 Executive Manager Corporate & Community Services**11.2.1 Monthly Financial Report – May 2025**

Author: Chief Executive Officer

Authorising Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Disclosure of Interest: The Author and Authorising Officer declare that they do not have any conflicts of interest in relation to this item.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION/ RESOLUTION

250607 Moved: Cr Coaker Seconded: Cr Clemson

That Council receive:

- 1. The Monthly Financial Report including the Statement of Financial Activity for the period ending 31 May 2025.**
- 2. The Bank Reconciliation Report for period ending 31 May 2025.**
- 3. The attached List of Payments for the period ending 31 May 2025.**
- 4. With respect to the Chief Executive Officer authorisations and reporting to Council;**
 - 4.1 - Reimbursement applications made by the Chief Executive Officer for the period ending 31 May 2025.**

CARRIED BY SIMPLE MAJORITY 6/0

PURPOSE

The Monthly Financial Report is prepared to provide Council with a comprehensive report on the financial position on a monthly basis.

The Monthly Financial Report includes the Statement of Financial Activity Report, Bank Reconciliation Report and the List of Payments made during the reporting month..

DETAIL

In accordance with the provisions of Section 6.4 of the Local Government Act 1995 and Regulation 34(1) of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, a local government is to prepare each month a Statement of Financial Activity (Attachment 1) reporting on the revenue and expenditure as set out in the Annual Budget each month.

Under the regulations the report must include the following items:

- Annual Budget estimates
- Budget estimates to the end of the month to which the statement relates,
- Actual amounts of expenditure, revenue, and income.
- Material variances between budget and actual
- Net current assets.
- The report is to be accompanied by documents containing an explanation of the net current assets, material variances and other relevant supporting documentation.

As part of the monthly report a bank reconciliation report will be completed and included as Attachment 2. The summary of the report for 31 May 2025 is as follows:

| Account | Balance |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Municipal Account | 1,167,202.37 |
| Municipal Online Account | 1,140,095.91 |
| Trust Account | 1,525.11 |
| Reserve Account | 5,150,907.78 |
| Term Deposits (Reserves) | 2,100,000.00 |
| Total Cash & Investments | 9,559,731.17 |

Pursuant to Section 5.42 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, Council has resolved to delegate to the Chief Executive Officer the authority to make payments from the municipal and trust funds.

As a result of this delegation there is a requirement under the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996* – Reg 13(3) for a list of payments to be prepared and presented to Council.

The list of accounts paid for the period 1 April to 31 May 2025 is presented as an attachment to this report (**Attachment 3**) and is summarised in the table below.

| Bank | Payment Description | Amount |
|-----------|---|-------------------|
| Municipal | Electronic Funds Transfers (EFT) | 515,417.26 |
| Municipal | Cheques No: | |
| Municipal | Direct Debit Transactions | 46,800.76 |
| Municipal | Bank Transfers / Payroll / Other Payments | 198,837.66 |
| Municipal | Corporate Credit Cards / Fuel Cards | 5,689.87 |
| Trust | Electronic Funds Transfers (EFT) | 0.00 |
| | TOTAL | 766,745.55 |

Reimbursement Applications

There have been no reimbursements claimed during the month of May 2025.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

Low significance – report is presented to Council for information purposes only.

CONSULTATION

Chief Executive Officer

LEGISLATION AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Section 5.42 Local Government Act 1995 Delegation of some powers and duties to the CEO.

Section 2.7 of the Local Government Act 1995 states:

Role of council

- (1) The council —
 - (a) governs the local government's affairs; and
 - (b) is responsible for the performance of the local government's functions.
- (2) Without limiting subsection (1), the council is to —
 - (a) oversee the allocation of the local government's finances and resources; and
 - (b) determine the local government's policies.

Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996

Regulation 34(1)

- (1) A local Government is to prepare each month a statement of financial activity reporting on the revenue and expenditure, as set out in the annual budget under regulation 22(1)(d) for each month.

Regulation 13

- (1) If the local government has delegated authority to the CEO the exercise of its power to make payments from the municipal fund or the trust fund, a list of accounts paid by the CEO is to be prepared each month.
- (3) A list prepared under sub regulation (1) or (2) is to be —
 - a. presented to the council at the next ordinary meeting of the council after the list is prepared; and
 - b. recorded in the minutes of that meeting

Strategic Community Plan 2022 - 2032

Be future focused in all we do:

- 1. Ensure the Shire and its assets are well resourced and sustainable.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

As presented.

RISK MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

The risks identified as part of this report being inaccurate information is mitigated by Council receiving financial statements on a monthly basis and in the form that is in accordance with the Local Government Act 1995 and associated regulations in the format called Statutory Reporting and is considered Low Risk.

CONCLUSION

Council is requested to receive the attached Monthly Financial Report that contains the Statement of Financial Activity, the Bank Reconciliation Report, the list of accounts paid by the Chief Executive Officer and the list of any work-related expenses/reimbursements submitted by the Chief Executive Officer.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – 11.2.1a Monthly Financial Report as at 31 May 2025

Attachment 2 – 11.2.1b Bank Reconciliation for the period ending 31 May 2025

Attachment 3 – 11.2.1c List of Accounts Paid for the period ending 31 May 2025

11.2.2 Correction of Minutes

Author: Chief Executive Officer

Authorising Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Disclosure of Interest: The Author and Authorising Officer declare that they do not have any conflicts of interest in relation to this item.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION/ RESOLUTION

250608

Moved: Cr Stokes

Seconded: Cr Collins

That Council:

1. Confirm the correction of the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 21 November 2024 in relation to item 11.2.1 - Monthly Financial Report – October 2024 as detailed in the report
2. Confirm the correction of the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 3 February 2025 in relation to item 11.2.1 - Monthly Financial Report – December 2024 as detailed in the report
3. Request the Chief Executive Officer to seek alternative financial reporting options to ensure compliance is adhered in the future.

CARRIED BY SIMPLE MAJORITY 6/0

PURPOSE

For Council to confirm corrections required to Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meetings held on 21 November 2024 and 3 February 2025.

DETAIL

During their Interim Audit work, the Shire's Audit Team identified two errors in the agenda and minutes for the Ordinary Council Meetings of 21 November 2024 and 3 February 2025.

OCM 21 November 2024

The error relates to the total for the List of Accounts Paid for the month of October. The Attachment was correct. The error arose from copying the table from the previous month agenda item. To address this error in the Minutes, the total is \$4,407,908.77 is the shown below.

| Bank | Payment Description | Amount |
|-------------|---|---------------------|
| Municipal | Electronic Funds Transfers (EFT) | 393,030.68 |
| Municipal | Cheques No: | 0 |
| Municipal | Direct Debit Transactions | 25,928.10 |
| Municipal | Bank Transfers / Payroll / Other Payments | 3,986,248.53 |
| Municipal | Corporate Credit Cards | 2,701.46 |
| Trust | Electronic Funds Transfers (EFT) | 0.00 |
| | TOTAL | 4,407,908.77 |

OCM 3 February 2025

The error relates to the total for the List of Accounts Paid for the month of December. The Attachment also contained a formulae error resulting in Credit Card transactions being overstated. The errors arose from copying the table from the previous month agenda item and a formulae error in the Attachment. To address this error in the Minutes, the table has been corrected and is shown below. In addition, an Amended Listed of Payments for December 2024 with the corrected total is also attached.

| Bank | Payment Description | Amount |
|-----------|---|---------------------|
| Municipal | Electronic Funds Transfers (EFT) | 860,551.94 |
| Municipal | Cheques No: | 0 |
| Municipal | Direct Debit Transactions | 66,160.66 |
| Municipal | Bank Transfers / Payroll / Other Payments | 149,420.91 |
| Municipal | Corporate Credit Cards | 4,063.83 |
| Trust | Electronic Funds Transfers (EFT) | 0.00 |
| | TOTAL | 1,080,197.34 |

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

Medium significance – Errors in the Monthly Financial reports presented to Council at the 21 November 2024 and 3 February 2025 Ordinary Council Meetings were identified during the Interim Audit by the Auditors and require Council to correct the Minutes of those Ordinary Council meetings as per this report.

CONSULTATION

Auditors, Senior Management Team and CEO

LEGISLATION AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 Regulation 34(1):

(1) A local Government is to prepare each month a statement of financial activity reporting on the revenue and expenditure, as set out in the annual budget under regulation 22(1)(d) for each month.

Strategic Community Plan 2022 - 2032

Be future focused in all we do:

1. Ensure the Shire and its assets are well resourced and sustainable.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

There are no known financial or resource implications in relation to this item.

RISK MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

There are no known risk management implications in relation to this item.

CONCLUSION

That Council confirm the correction to the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meetings held on 21 November 2024 and 3 February 2025 as detailed in this report.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – 11.2.2 Amended List of Payments for period ended 31 December 2024

Item 12 Reports from Committees*Nil***Item 13 Motions of Which Previous Notice Has Been Given***Nil***Item 14 New Business of an Urgent Nature***Nil***Item 15 Matters for Which the Meeting May Be Closed (Confidential Items)***Nil***Item 16 Closure****16.1 Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next ordinary meeting of Council will be held on Wednesday, 23 July 2025 commencing at 1:00pm, in the Council Chambers.

16.2 Closure

There being no further business, the Presiding Member declares the meeting closed at 3:23pm.

Presiding Member 

