



MINUTES

ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

held on

Tuesday, 26 May 2026 at 5.30pm

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 5.30 pm.

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 e-Attendance**

President (Presiding Member) Councillor Karen Chappel
 Deputy President Councillor Stokes
 Councillor Grant Chadwick
 Councillor Mark Coaker
 Councillor Diana North
 Councillor Dean Clemson (Joined Session @ 5.41pm)

Staff e-Attendance

CEO

Marty Symmons

Staff In-Person Attendance

EMWS
 GESO

Graeme Hedditch
 Anish Thomas

Members of the Public

Nil

3.2 Apologies

Councillor Naomi Francis

3.3 Approved Leave of Absence

Nil

3.4 Disclosure of Interests

The Presiding Member read aloud the following listed disclosures of interest received before the meeting:

Agenda Item		
Disclosing Member	Nature of Interest	The Nature being
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 April 2026.

Date	Details of Meeting
21/04/2026	Meeting at Midwest Development Commission in Geraldton.
28/04/2026	Meeting with Rural Aid Community Development Officer. Morawa.
28/04/2026	Briefing Session with Newly Elected Cr. Naomi Francis, Morawa.
28/04/2026	Ordinary Council Meeting – Shire of Morawa.
29/04/2026	ANZAC Function at Morawa District High School.

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 agenda.

- President (Presiding Member) Councillor Karen Chappel
- Deputy President Councillor Ken Stokes
- Councillor Mark Coaker
- Councillor Grant Chadwick
- Councillor Diana North

Item 10 Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the 28 April 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting were provided as email on 08th May 2026 and under separate cover via the Shire of Morawa's secure portal to all Councillors on 15th May 2026.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION/RESOLUTION**260501****Moved: Cr. Stokes****Seconded: Cr. Coaker**

That Council confirm that:

- 1. the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on the 28 April 2026 are a true and correct record.**

CARRIED BY SIMPLE MAJORITY VOTE 5/0

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 April 2026.**

Author: Executive Manager Corporate & Community Services

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**260502****Moved: Cr. North****Seconded: Cr. Chadwick**

That with respect to Actions Performed under Delegated Authority for April 2026, Council:

1. Accept the Report.***CARRIED BY SIMPLE MAJORITY VOTE 5/0*****PURPOSE**

To report back to Council, actions performed under delegated authority from the period 01 April 2026 to 30 April 2026.

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 April 2026 to 30 April 2026 ('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

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

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 & Development Act 2005* during the period.

Building Permits

No delegated decisions were undertaken by Shire pursuant to building permits during this period.

Other Delegations

Date of decision	Decision Ref.	Decision details	Applicant	Other affected person(s)
22/04/2026		Morawa Speedway Public Event 25 th and 26 th April 2026	Shirley Katona (Morawa Speedway Association)	

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 (2020)

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 Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee - Adoption of Documents and Appointment of Independent Deputy Presiding Member

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 RECOMMENDATION/RESOLUTION

260503

Moved: Cr. Stokes

Seconded: Cr. Coaker

That Council:

- 1. ESTABLISHES the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) in accordance with Section 7.1A of the Local Government Act 1995 and the Local Government Regulations Amendment Regulations (No. 4) 2025 to replace the former Audit Committee structure before the statutory transition deadline of 30 June 2026.**
- 2. ADOPTS the updated Shire of Morawa Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Terms of Reference as presented in Attachment 1.**
- 3. ADOPTS the updated Shire of Morawa Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Charter as presented in Attachment 2.**
- 4. APPOINTS Mr. Michael Ronald Cole to the role of Deputy to the Independent Presiding Member (Deputy Chairperson) of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee for a term of up to two (2) years, expiring on the ordinary local government election day in October 2027, in accordance with Clause 32 & 35 of the Terms of Reference.**

CARRIED BY ABSOLUTE MAJORITY VOTE 5/0

PURPOSE

This report seeks Council's formal approval to finalise the transition of its compliance framework by establishing the newly structured Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) and adopting its updated Terms of Reference (ToR) and governing Charter. This action ensures full compliance with the local government governance reforms that came into operation on 1 January 2026, mandating the reorganisation of all local government audit bodies before 30 June 2026.

Additionally, this report recommends the direct appointment of Mr. Michael Ronald Cole as the Independent Deputy to the Presiding Member (Deputy Chairperson). Mr. Cole is a highly qualified former Local Government CEO, CFO, and Corporate Services Director whose verified Expression of Interest (EOI) has been vetted and processed through the Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) Pool of Independent Presiding Members.

TOR & CHARTER

The final drafts of the ARIC Terms of Reference (Attachment 1) and the ARIC Charter (Attachment 2) have been refined to resolve compliance discrepancies with recent reforms.

The ToR has been updated as follows:

- The final Terms of Reference explicitly mandate that both the Chair and the Deputy to the Presiding Member must be independent external appointees.
- Explicit provisions have been written into the ToR to declare that ARIC meetings are legally designated as open public meetings. Meeting dates will be published annually alongside Ordinary Council Meeting (OCM) dates, and closing a session requires an explicit motion matching Section 5.23 of the Act.
- The individual terms of independent appointments have been adjusted to a maximum of two (2) years to conclude cleanly on ordinary local government election days. Furthermore, the review cycles for both the ToR and the Charter are synchronized to a matching two-year election cycle.

The Charter has been developed as an operational document to provide guidance on how the Committee and CEO will carry out the functions in the ToR.

DEPUTY OF THE INDEPENDENT PRESIDING MEMBER

Securing external professionals with local government expertise is historically challenging for regional Shires. To satisfy the new requirement for independent leadership, the administration has utilised the official WALGA Pool of Independent Presiding Members. Through this repository, the administration received and evaluated the verified Expression of Interest of Mr. Michael Ronald Cole (Attachment 3).

A comprehensive review of Mr. Cole's credentials demonstrates an exceptional match for the Shire of Morawa's compliance objectives.

Mr. Cole has advised his availability and interest in being appointed to the Shire of Morawa. It is recommended that Council appoint him immediately to the role of Deputy to the Independent Presiding Member to ensure compliance ahead of the 30 June deadline.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

High significance: Failure to act will result in legislative non-compliance. Under the 1 January 2026 local government reforms, the Shire is required to transition its existing audit committee framework into the new ARIC structure before 30 June 2026.

CONSULTATION

NIL

LEGISLATION AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Local Government Act 1995 – Section 7.1A (Mandatory establishment of audit committees)
Local Government (Audit) Regulations 1996 – Regulation 16 (Functions of the committee)
Local Government (Audit) Regulations 1996 – Regulation 17 (CEO systems reviews)
Local Government Regulations Amendment Regulations (No. 4) 2025 (Transitioning structures to ARIC).
Shire of Morawa Code of Conduct

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

In accordance with existing operational budget allocations.

CONCLUSION

That Council updates the Terms of Reference, adopts the Charter, and appoints the Deputy to the Independent Presiding Member, to ensure compliance with local government governance reforms.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1 – 11.1.2a Audit Risk and Improvement Committee - Updated Terms of Reference - May 2026.*
- Attachment 2 – 11.1.2b Audit Risk and Improvement Committee Charter - May 2026.*
- Attachment 3 – 11.1.2c COLE Michael WALGA ARIC Pool EOI (ID 853582).*

11.1.3 Setting of Differential Rates 2026-2027

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 RECOMMENDATION/RESOLUTION

260504

Moved: Cr. Stokes

Seconded: Cr. Chadwick

That Council:

1. **NOTES** the consideration of the efficiency measures listed in this report and used in the development of the Draft Budget for the 2026-2027 Financial Year.
2. **ADOPT** the Statement of Objects and Reasons for each Differential and Minimum Rate for 2026-2027.
3. Pursuant to sections 6.32, 6.33 and 6.35 of the Local Government Act 1995, **ADOPT** a 4.5% rate in the dollar increase to the GRV category to form the basis of the proposed rate setting for the 2026-2027 Budget.
4. Pursuant to sections 6.32, 6.33 and 6.35 of the Local Government Act 1995, **ADOPT** a 12.1% decrease in the rate in the dollar for the UV Rural category (yielding a 4.5% category rate revenue variance from last year) to form the basis of the proposed rate setting for the 2026-2027 Budget.
5. Pursuant to sections 6.32, 6.33 and 6.35 of the Local Government Act 1995, **adopt** a 4.5% increase to the minimum rates for the GRV, UV Rural, and UV Mining categories to form the basis of the proposed rate setting for the 2026-2027 Budget.
6. Pursuant to sections 6.32, 6.33 and 6.35 of the Local Government Act 1995, **ADOPT** the rate in the dollar and minimum rate increases across the rating categories to form the basis of the proposed rate setting for the 2026-2027 budget as detailed below

Rate Type	Rate in the Dollar (Cents)	Minimum Payment
GRV Residential / Commercial	9.5865	\$386
UV Rural	1.4570	\$386
UV Mining	31.7030	\$742

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 2026-2027 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 VOTE 5/0

PURPOSE

This report is for Council to adopt the 2026-2027 financial year Rates Model in advance of the 2026-2027 Annual Budget being adopted in order to gain approvals for the Shire's system of differential rating.

DETAILS

As Council is proposing to adopt differential rates it will be necessary to advertise the proposed rates in accordance with section 6.36 of the Local Government Act 1995, review any submissions 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 Reasons 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 significant negative impact on revenue and 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.

For 2026-27, Administration has proposed an approximate 4.5% increase to the GRV rate in the dollar and a 4.5% increase to the GRV minimum payment, as reflected in the attached rates model.

While there is no general increase in GRV property valuations for 2026-27, the Office of the Valuer General has advised that the UV annual revaluations have again resulted in an increase across UV rural properties. To smooth the impact of UV rural revaluations this year, Administration has proposed a 12.1% decrease to the UV Rural rate in the dollar, with a 4.5% increase to the minimum payment.

The UV Mining rate in the dollar has been increased with the minimum payment increased by 4.5%, to maintain the current level of services and to align with Council's adopted strategic documents.

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, Corporate Business Plan 2025–2035 (CBP), and Asset Management Plans (AMP).

MATTERS CONSIDERED AS PART OF THE BUDGET PROCESS

In the review of the rate increase for the 2026-2027 Budget, Council has considered a range of issues impacting the development of the draft budget including:

Strategic alignment: The validity or relevance of the rates increase proposed in the current Strategic Resource Plan 2022–2037, the Corporate Business Plan 2024–2034, and the Strategic Community Plan 2022–2032.

Economic conditions: The impact of the agricultural season and the economic changes in the mining industry.

Differential rating policy: Whether differential rating is applicable for 2026-2027 as required by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) Rating Policy – Differential Rates.

Asset management: The Shire's asset management plans including key capital costs going forward.

Budget efficiencies: Budget efficiencies as required by the DLGSC Rating Policy – Differential General Rates.

Cost pressures: Supply constraints in fuel, 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, and tight labour markets.

Indices and inflation: The Local Government Cost Index (LGCI) and Consumer Price Index (CPI) forecasts for the 2026-2027 year, noting that cost inflation remains above long-term averages and continues to impact the Shire's expenditure profile.

In recognition of the circumstances that Council faces, with the expected continuation of higher than average costs and upcoming major projects, it is recommended to Council that rates in the dollar and minimums are adjusted to target a 4.5% variance increase from last year's base values, maintaining consistency with service delivery requirements.

CHANGES IN PROPERTY VALUES

As advised by the Valuer General, the total rateable values for the properties from 1 July 2026 are as follows:

UV Rural Value:	\$185,144,730
UV Mining Value:	\$931,080

GRV Value: \$3,736,386

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 2026-2027.

Efficiency measures considered are:

Organisational structure: Ongoing assessment of the organisational structure.

Workforce management: Review of position descriptions, remuneration and need for the position as vacancies arise.

Outsourcing and contractors: Consideration of outsourcing and use of short-term contractors for specialised projects.

Debt recovery: The recovery of outstanding debts including rates and sundry debtors.

Shared services: Exploring shared service arrangements.

Service levels: Ongoing review of service levels.

Local procurement: Continued use of local suppliers whenever possible and appropriate.

Budget reviews: 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 (predicted).

Increases to insurance expenses.

Utility cost increases.

Higher costs for fuel, materials and contractors.

Tight labour market placing pressure on the Shire to offer above award wages.

Overall increase to expenditure of around 4–5%.

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 2026-2027 rate in the dollar is a significant part of the development of the 2026-2027 budget.

CONSULTATION

CEO Briefing Forum: 20 May 2026.

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 section 6.33(3) of the Local Government Act 1995 that is more than twice the lowest differential rate being imposed. The Shire's UV Mining rate remains significantly higher than the UV Rural rate and therefore requires Ministerial approval.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

For Council to maintain service levels and commitments, an increase to the rates revenue raised is required. The proposed model targets an actual rate yield to raise of \$3,374,796.32 across a total of 703 properties.

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 as per the 2026-2027 rates model, and advertises its intention to impose differential rates as required under legislation, prior to seeking Ministerial approval for the proposed rating categories.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1- 11.1.3a - Proposed Rates Model for 2026-2027.

Attachment 2- 11.1.3b - Statement of Objects and Reasons.

11.2 Chief Executive Officer (For EMCCS)**11.2.1 Monthly Financial Report – April 2026**

Author: Financial Services Coordinator

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 RECOMMENDATION/RESOLUTION**260505****Moved: Cr. North****Seconded: Cr. Coaker**

That Council receive:

- 1. The Monthly Statement of Financial Activity Report for the period ending 30 April 2026**
- 2. The Bank Reconciliation Report for period ending 30 April 2026**
- 3. The List of Payments for the period ending 30 April 2026**
- 4. Declarations of reimbursements made to the Chief Executive Officer for the period ending 30 April 2026**

CARRIED BY SIMPLE MAJORITY VOTE 5/0

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 30 April 2026 is as follows:

Account	Balance
Municipal Account	1,653,710.99
Municipal Online Account	1,177,274.75
Trust Account	1,525.11
Reserve Account	5,901,360.38
Term Deposits (Reserves)	2,100,000.00
Total Cash & Investments	10,833,871.23

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 30 April 2026 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) Less Fuel Cards	298,282.28
Municipal	Cheques No:	0.00
Municipal	Direct Debit Transactions	41,884.21
Municipal	Bank Transfers / Payroll / Other Payments	196,295.85
Municipal	Corporate Credit Cards / Fuel Cards	0.00
Trust	Electronic Funds Transfers (EFT)	0.00
	TOTAL	536,462.34

Reimbursement Applications

There have been no reimbursements claimed during the month of April 2026.

OFFICER'S COMMENTS

NIL

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 30 April 2026

Attachment 2 – 11.2.1b Bank Reconciliation for the period ending 30 April 2026

Attachment 3 – 11.2.1c List of Accounts Paid for the period ending 30 April 2026

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)**Author:** Executive Assistant**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 RECOMMENDATION/RESOLUTION**

260506

Moved: Cr. Coaker

Seconded: Cr. Stokes

That Council:

That Council closes the meeting to the public under section 5.23 (2)(c) of the *Local Government Act 1995* and the *Shire of Morawa Meeting Procedures Local Law 2012* s 6.2 so that it can consider the following Items:

- Item 15.1- Appointment of Executive Manager Corporate & Community Services.
- Item 15.1- RFT-06-2025-2026 Morawa Early Childhood Education & Family Centre.

CARRIED BY SIMPLE MAJORITY VOTE 5/0**PURPOSE**

This item seeks Council's approval under s5.23 (2) of the Local Government Act 1995 to move into camera or closed session to consider confidential matters.

DETAIL

Under s5.23 (2) of the *Local Government Act 1995*, Council must resolve to move into camera or closed session. The following Items are 'confidential matters' as addressed below:

- Confidential Item 15.1 – Appointment of Executive Manager Corporate & Community Services.
- Confidential Item 15.2 – RFT-06-2025-2026 Morawa Early Childhood Education & Family Centre.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

High – Confidential Items

CONSULTATION

Nil

LEGISLATION AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Local Government Act 1995

Under section 5.23 (2) of the *Local Government Act 1995*, part of a council meeting may be closed, if the meeting deals with any of the following:

- (a) *a matter affecting an employee or employees;*
- (b) *the personal affairs of any person;*
- (c) *a contract entered into, or which may be entered into, by the local government and which relates to a matter to be discussed at the meeting;*
- (d) *legal advice obtained, or which may be obtained, by the local government and which relates to a matter to be discussed at the meeting;*
- (e) *a matter that if disclosed, would reveal —*
 - (i) *a trade secret;*
 - (ii) *information that has a commercial value to a person;*
 - (iii) *information about the business, professional, commercial or financial affairs of a person, where the trade secret or information is held by, or is about, a person other than the local government;*
- (f) *a matter that if disclosed, could be reasonably expected to —*
 - (i) *impair the effectiveness of any lawful method or procedure for preventing, detecting, investigating or dealing with any contravention or possible contravention of the law;*
 - (ii) *endanger the security of the local government's property;*
 - (iii) *prejudice the maintenance or enforcement of a lawful measure for protecting public safety;*
- (g) *information which is the subject of a direction given under section 23(1a) of the Parliamentary Commissioner Act 1971; and*
- (h) *such other matters as may be prescribed.*

Shire of Morawa Meeting Procedures Local Law 2012

The key parts include:

6.2 Meetings not open to the public;

- (1) The CEO may, at any time, recommend that a meeting or part of a meeting be closed to members of the public.
- (2) The Council or a committee, in one or more of the circumstances dealt with in the Act, may at any time, by resolution, decide to close a meeting or part of a meeting.

- (3) If a resolution under subclause (2) is carried— (a) the presiding member is to direct everyone to leave the meeting except— (i) the members; (ii) the CEO; and (iii) any officer specified by the presiding member; and (b) the meeting is to be closed to the public until, at the conclusion of the matter justifying the closure of the meeting to the public, the Council or the committee, by resolution, decides otherwise.
- (4) A person who fails to comply with a direction under subclause (3)(a) may, by order of the presiding member, be removed from the meeting.
- (5) While the resolution under subclause (2) remains in force, the operation of clause 8.9 is to be suspended until the Council or the committee, by resolution, decides otherwise.
- (6) A resolution under this clause may be made without notice.
- (7) Unless the Council resolves otherwise, once the meeting is reopened to members of the public, the presiding member is to ensure that any resolution of the Council made while the meeting was closed is to be read out including a vote of a member to be included in the minutes.

Strategic Community Plan 2022 to 2032

Be future focused in all we do:

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

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

Any known financial implications are addressed in the respective reports.

RISK MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

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

CONCLUSION

That Council closes the meeting to the public under section 5.23 (2) of the *Local Government Act 1995* and the *Shire of Morawa Meeting Procedures Local Law 2012* s 6.2 so that it can consider the reports as addressed.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

15.1 Executive Manager Corporate and Community Services

This is a Confidential Item

15.2 RFT-06-2025-2026 Morawa Early Childhood Education & Family Centre

This is a Confidential Item

(Cr. Dean Clemson joined the session via e-meeting at 5.41pm during the reading of resolution by the Presiding Member on Item 15.2)

15.3 Reopening of the Meeting to the Public**OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION/RESOLUTION**

260509

Moved: Cr. North

Seconded: Cr. Coaker

That Council reopens the meeting to the public.

CARRIED BY SIMPLE MAJORITY VOTE 5/0

15.4 Presiding Member Publicly Confirms Confidential Item Resolutions

The Presiding Member publicly confirms the Confidential Item Resolution for:

- Item 15.1 - Appointment of Executive Manager Corporate & Community Services.
(by Absolute Majority)

That Council:

1. ENDORSES the appointment of Ms. Kristy Van Kuyl to the position of Executive Manager Corporate and Community Services (EMCCS) with the Shire of Morawa, noting that this position is a designated Senior Employee pursuant to Section 5.37 of the *Local Government Act 1995* and Shire Policy *EMP02 Senior Employees*.

- Item 15.2 - RFT-06-2025-2026 Morawa Early Childhood Education & Family Centre.
(by Absolute Majority)

That Council:

1. ACCEPT the Tender submission received from ACorp for Tender RFT-06-2025-2026: Construction of the Morawa Early Childhood Education and Family Centre, for the lump sum value of \$3,419,334 (excluding GST), as the most advantageous submission.
2. AUTHORISES the Chief Executive Officer to finalise contract negotiations, minor variations, and execute the final contract documents on behalf of the Shire of Morawa.
3. AUTHORISES the Chief Executive Officer to approve variations to the contract up to a maximum cumulative value of 10% of the initial contract sum (excluding GST), provided that any such variations can be managed within the overall approved project budget allocation. Variations exceeding this cumulative limit shall be referred back to Council for approval.

Item 16 Closure

16.1 Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next ordinary meeting of Council will be Tuesday, 30th June 2026 commencing at 5.30pm, in the Council Chambers.

16.2 Closure

There being no further business, the Presiding Member declared the meeting closed at 5.42pm.

Presiding Member 

