MINUTES

ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

held on

Tuesday, 28 July 2026 at 5.30pm

At the

Shire of Morawa Council Chambers,
26 Winfield Street, Morawa

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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

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			
Name of person declaring the interest	**Marty Symmons**		
Position	Chief Executive Officer		
Date of Meeting	28 July 2026		
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	Item No. 15.1 – Initiation of Annual CEO Performance Review.		
Nature of Interest	The CEO discloses an interest in this matter as it concerns their annual performance review.		
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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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	
Name of person declaring the interest	**Cr. Karen Chappel AM**
Position	Elected Member - President
Date of Meeting	28 July 2026
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	Item 11.1.5 - Endorsement of Advocacy for the Morawa Licensed Post Office
Nature of Interest	Cr. Karen Chappel AM, discloses an interest in this matter as it concerns to Local Post Office operated & owned by daughter-in-law/son.
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: ____________________**

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Contents

Item 1 Opening of Meeting

The President declared the meeting open at 5.30pm.

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
President (Presiding Member) Councillor Karen Chappel AM
Deputy President Councillor Stokes
Councillor Grant Chadwick
Councillor Mark Coaker
Councillor Dean Clemson
Councillor Diana North
Councillor Naomi Francis

Staff – Attendance

CEO	Marty Symmons
EMCCS	Kristy Van Kuyl
EMWS	Graeme Hedditch
GESO	Anish Thomas

Members of the Public
Debra Collins
Peter North

3.2 Apologies
Nil

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 11.1.5 - Endorsement of Advocacy for the Morawa Licensed Post Office		
Disclosing Member	**Nature of Interest**	**The Nature being**
Cr. Karen Chappel AM	Impartiality	LPO Operated & Owned by Daughter in Law/Son

Agenda Item 15.1 - Initiation of Annual CEO Performance Review		
Disclosing Member	**Nature of Interest**	**The Nature being**
Marty Symmons (CEO)	Impartiality	CEO Annual Performance Review

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 June 2026.

Date	Details of Meeting
04 June 2026	Meeting with Hon Shane Love MLA in Morawa.
12 June 2026	Attending WALGA LG Awards, Perth.
15 June 2026	Meeting with Hon Melissa MP in Morawa.
16 June 2026	Meeting with ACorp Construction Team (ECEC) in Morawa.
22 June 2026	LG Rural Health Funding Alliance, Canberra.
23 June 2026	Attending Australian Council of Local Government (ACLG) 2026, Canberra.
24 June 2026	Attending Australian Council of Local Government (ACLG) 2026, Canberra.
25 June 2026	Attending Australian Council of Local Government (ACLG) 2026, Canberra.
30 June 2026	Ordinary Council Meeting – Shire of Morawa.

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 AM
- Deputy President Councillor Stokes
- Councillor Mark Coaker
- Councillor Grant Chadwick
- Councillor Diana North
- Councillor Dean Clemson
- Councillor Naomi Francis

CARRIED BY 7/0

Item 10 Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the 30 June 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting were provided as email on 02nd July 2026 and under separate cover via the Shire of Morawa's secure portal to all Councillors on 03rd July 2026.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION/RESOLUTION

260705 **Moved: Cr. Stokes** **Seconded: Cr. Coaker**

That Council confirm that:

1. **the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on the 30 June 2026 are a true and correct record.**

CARRIED BY SIMPLE MAJORITY VOTE 7/0

Item 10a Public statements, Petitions, Presentations and Approved deputations

1) Mrs. Debra Collins presented a proposal for an adventure Playground on the designated block between Barnes & Harley Street, Morawa.

1) Mr. Peter North presented information on behalf of the Central Wheatbelt Biosecurity Association and Northern Biosecurity Group regarding the halting of wild dog control on affected DBCA managed lands following a decision by the Yamatji Nation Joint Management Body not to renew their permits.

Item 11 Reports of Officers

11.1 Chief Executive Officer

11.1.1 Actions Performed under Delegated Authority for June 2026.

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

260706 **Moved: Cr. North** **Seconded: Cr. Chadwick**

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

1. **Accept the Report.**

CARRIED BY SIMPLE MAJORITY VOTE 7/0

PURPOSE

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

Date of decision	***Decision Ref.***	***Decision details***	***Applicant***	***Other affected person(s)***
28/05/2026	RFT-06-2025-2026	ACORP Construction Pvt Ltd. Agreement for Construction of ECEC	Thru Eastman Poletti (EPS)	Nil
09/03/2026	Lease Agreement – Child Care Centre, Reserve 19273, 25-27 Dreghorn Street, Morawa	Regional Early Education and Development – (REED) Lease of ECEC until 08 Sept 2027.	-	Nil

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

Date of decision	*Decision Ref.*	*Decision details*	*Applicant*	*Other affected person(s)*
02/06/2026	3/26 359 Neates Road, Meerkanooka, WA 6625	Granted	Michael Eric Sasse	
16/06/2026	7/26 39 Richter Avenue WA 6623	Granted	Raymond Charles Fogarty	
16/06/2026	6/26 Building Works at Lot 409, 26 Prater Street WA 6623	Granted	Acorp Construction	

Other Delegations

Date of decision	***Decision Ref.***	***Decision details***	***Applicant***	***Other affected person(s)***
09/06/2026	Write Off Small Balances Total Balance $ 12.77	Lot 6290 P226612 Lochada Rd Morawa WA 6623 Lot 6291 P226612 Fallon Rd Morawa WA 6623 Lot 5880 P226741 Judge Road Morawa WA 6623	-	

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 Review of Council Delegation and Authorisation Registers

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

260707 **Moved: Cr. Stokes** **Seconded: Cr. North**

That Council:

1. **Adopts the July 2026 review of the Delegation and Authorisation Register being a continuation of the delegations currently in place.**

CARRIED BY ABSOLUTE MAJORITY VOTE 7/0

PURPOSE

To present the annual review of the Shire of Morawa Delegations Register and Authorisations Register, in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1995 and associated regulations, and to seek Council endorsement of the updated registers.

BACKGROUND

Section 5.46(2) of the Local Government Act 1995 requires that delegations made by the local government to the CEO are to be reviewed at least once every financial year to ensure it is kept current and consistent with legislative requirements.

This document also includes approved Authorisations, which sets out statutory authorisations granted to officers under various legislation including, but not limited to, the Local Government Act 1995, Bush Fires Act 1954, Cat Act 2011, Dog Act 1976, Public Health Act 2016, and Food Act 2008. These authorisations enable officers to lawfully undertake compliance, enforcement, and administrative functions.

The annual review ensures the register remain contemporary, legally compliant, and aligned with the Shire's operational structure and risk management practices.

DETAILS

A comprehensive review of the Delegations and Authorisations Register has been undertaken by the Executive Management Team. The review considered:

- Current legislative requirements and recent amendments.
- Operational needs and staff role changes.
- Internal controls, risk mitigation, and audit recommendations.

- Clarity of delegation conditions, limitations, and reporting obligations.

As part of the 2026 review, statutory authorisations previously contained in a separate Authorisations Register have been consolidated into Section 3 of the combined Delegations and Authorisations Register. This ensures all non-delegable functions arising under external legislation are retained and clearly identified, consistent with the 2026 DLGSC Delegations and Authorisations Guidelines.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

Moderate significance – A review of delegations and authorisations warrant Council consideration and endorsement but does not trigger broader community engagement or strategic consultation processes.

CONSULTATION

Senior Management

LEGISLATION AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

- Local Government Act 1995 – Sections 5.42, 5.43, 5.44, and 5.46.
- Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996.
- Various legislation relating to statutory authorisations (e.g., Bush Fires Act 1954, Dog Act 1976, Cat Act 2011, Food Act 2008, Public Health Act 2016).

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 direct financial implications arising from the review.

RISK MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Regular review of delegations and authorisations is a key governance control. Failure to maintain accurate registers may result in:

- Decisions made without lawful authority.
- Increased exposure to legal challenge.
- Inefficient administrative processes.
- The updated registers mitigate these risks and support compliance with statutory obligations.

CONCLUSION

The annual review of the Delegations and Authorisations Register has been completed in accordance with the Local Government Act 1995. The updated register ensure legal compliance, operational clarity, and strong governance practices. Council endorsement is recommended.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – 11.1.2a 2026 Delegation Register – Tracked Changes.
Attachment 2 – 11.1.2b 2026 Delegation Register – Clean.

11.1.3 Wildflower Country Incorporated – AGM Outcomes and Membership Considerations

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

260708 Moved: Cr. North Seconded: Cr. Clemson

That Council:

1. **Continues its membership with Wildflower Country Incorporated for the 2026–27 financial year.**
2. **Appoints the Chief Executive Officer as the Shire of Morawa voting delegate, and Executive Manager Corporate Community Services as proxy delegate, to represent and vote on behalf of the Shire at Wildflower Country Incorporated meetings.**
3. **Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to provide written correspondence to Wildflower Country Incorporated confirming the appointed delegates, in accordance with Clause 8 of the Constitution.**
4. **Notes that membership fees for 2026–2027 are Nil, and that the Association will subsist on existing funds.**
5. **Requests a further report in mid-2027 to review ongoing membership based on progress achieved through the revitalisation process**

CARRIED BY SIMPLE MAJORITY VOTE 7/0

PURPOSE

To present Council with the outcomes of the Wildflower Country Incorporated (WFC) Annual General Meeting held on 3 July 2026, and to seek Council's position regarding ongoing membership and appointment of voting delegates for the 2026–27 financial year.

BACKGROUND

Wildflower Country Incorporated is a regional tourism association comprising member local governments across the North Midlands and surrounding region. The Association held its Annual General Meeting on 3 July 2026, with minutes provided to all member councils.

Key documents circulated to members included:

- Minutes of the 2026 AGM
- Constitution (March 2017)
- Voting Delegate Appointment Letter Template
- Draft Work Plan prepared by 150Square

The AGM focused on the future of the Association, including whether to wind up WFC or undertake a revitalisation process.

KEY AGM OUTCOMES

1. Election of Office Bearers

The following office bearers were appointed:
- Chairperson – Mia Maxfield (Shire of Coorow)
- Vice Chairperson – Matt Fanning (Shire of Mingenew)
- Treasurer – Clinton Strugnell (Shire of Perenjori)
- Secretary – Erin Greaves (Shire of Mingenew)

2. Financial Position

The Association holds approximately $70,000 in existing funds. Under Clause 3 of the Constitution, these funds cannot be distributed back to member councils should the Association be wound up.

3. Membership Fees

Membership fees for 2026–27 have been set at Nil.

4. Future Options Discussed

Members discussed two primary pathways:

Revitalisation of WFC
- Re-engagement of member councils
- Development of a new operating model
- Reinstatement of digital presence
- Updated marketing collateral
- Partnership development
- Implementation of the Draft Work Plan prepared by 150Square

Cancellation / Winding Up of WFC
- Requires preparation of financial statements
- Disposal of assets
- Special resolution
- Voting delegates still required to facilitate winding up

5. Draft Work Plan

The Draft Work Plan outlines priorities in governance, partnerships, digital presence, content development and regional collaboration. It provides a structured pathway for revitalisation over the next 3-9 months.

CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE SHIRE OF MORAWA

Council previously expressed reservations about the value of Wildflower Country but acknowledged potential benefits if the Association is restructured and refocused on North Midlands regional tourism.

Key considerations include:

- No membership fee applies for 2026-2027.
- Existing funds cannot be withdrawn by Morawa even if Council resigns.
- Remaining a member for the next 12 months allows Morawa to participate in the redesign process and influence future direction.
- Withdrawal at this stage would remove Morawa's ability to vote on the future of the Association, including any winding-up resolution.
- The Draft Work Plan provides a clear pathway for revitalisation, which aligns with Council's interest in a coordinated regional tourism strategy.

Given these factors, remaining a member for the next 12 months presents minimal financial risk and preserves Morawa's influence during a critical restructuring period.

GOVERNANCE REQUIREMENTS

Under Clause 27(4) of the Constitution, each member local government must appoint voting delegates in writing. A template letter has been provided for this purpose.

Even if Council were to support winding up the Association, voting delegates must still be appointed to participate in required decision-making.

COUNCIL OPTIONS

<u>Option 1 – Remain a Member for 2026–27 and Appoint Voting Delegates</u>

Council:

1. Appoints representatives to the Wildflower Country Incorporated Committee to represent and vote on behalf of the Shire of Morawa and appoints proxy delegates.

2. Provides written correspondence to Wildflower Country Incorporated confirming the appointed delegates in accordance with Clause 8 of the Constitution.

3. Notes that membership fees for 2026–27 are Nil.

4. Notes that Council will review its membership position in 2027 following completion of the revitalisation process.

<u>Option 2 – Withdraw from Wildflower Country Incorporated</u>

Council gives written notice of resignation from membership in accordance with Clause 10 of the Constitution.

This option is not recommended at this time due to:

- inability to recover any portion of existing funds
- loss of voting rights during a critical decision-making period
- potential missed opportunity to influence regional tourism strategy

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

Moderate significance: in accordance with the Shire's decision-making framework.
It relates to regional tourism development, inter-local government collaboration and future strategic positioning.

CONSULTATION
External consultation has occurred through participation in the Wildflower Country AGM and discussions with member councils.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct policy implications arising from this report.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

- Membership fees for 2026–2027 are Nil.
- The Association will operate using existing funds, which cannot be withdrawn by member councils.
- Staff time will be required to participate in meetings and contribute to the revitalisation process.
- No additional financial commitment is required at this stage.

CONCLUSION

Remaining a member of Wildflower Country Incorporated for the next 12 months allows the Shire of Morawa to participate in the revitalisation process, influence future direction and support regional tourism collaboration.
With no membership fee and no ability to recover existing funds upon withdrawal, continued membership presents minimal financial risk and maintains Morawa's strategic position.

CONFIDENTIAL ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – 11.1.3a Draft Work Plan.
Attachment 2 – 11.1.3b WFC Minutes – AGM July 2026.
Attachment 3 – 11.1.3c Voting Delegate Appointment Letter 2026.
Attachment 4 – 11.1.3d Wildflower Country Inc Constitution.

11.1.4 Review of the Corporate Business Plan 2024–2034

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

260709 Moved: Cr. Coaker Seconded: Cr. Francis

That Council:

1. **Receives the annual review of the Corporate Business Plan 2024–2034.**
2. **Endorses the updated strategic deliverables and project priorities as outlined in this report.**
3. **Notes that the reviewed Corporate Business Plan will inform the finalisation of the 2026/27 Annual Budget.**

CARRIED BY SIMPLE MAJORITY VOTE 7/0

PURPOSE

To present Council with the annual review of the Corporate Business Plan 2024-2034, outlining progress against strategic deliverables, major project milestones, and emerging priorities that influence operational and long-term planning.

BACKGROUND

Section 5.56 of the Local Government Act 1995 requires all local governments to maintain a "Plan for the Future," supported by the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework. The Corporate Business Plan (CBP) forms the Shire's medium-term operational plan, translating the Strategic Community Plan 2022-2032 into deliverables, resourcing requirements, and annual budget priorities.

The CBP is reviewed annually to ensure alignment with current financial capacity, workforce capability, external funding opportunities, and emerging community needs. This report provides Council with an update on progress since the last review and identifies adjustments incorporated into the draft 2026/27 Budget.

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS AGAINST STRATEGIC FOCUS AREAS

Growth and Prosperity – Childcare Project

Construction of the Morawa Childcare Centre has commenced, representing a major strategic

deliverable under the Growth and Prosperity aspiration. This project continues to be the Shire's highest strategic priority due to its direct impact on workforce attraction, economic participation, and community wellbeing.
Tourism and Visitor Experience

Deliverables under the Tourism Plan remain on track. Several initiatives are scheduled for delivery this financial year, consistent with the CBP's strategic direction to "Create a Sense of Place for Visitors."
The Plan identifies tourism actions as ongoing across Years 1–10, with annual allocations to support implementation.

Solomon Terrace Community Precinct

Stage 1 and the majority of Stage 2 have now been completed following Council's adoption of the Master Plan.
The CBP identifies Solomon Terrace as a multi-stage, long-term project valued at approximately $10M and highly grant-dependent.

Community Safety – CCTV Network

Design work for the townsite CCTV system has been completed. Installation is scheduled for the 2026/27 financial year, aligning with the CBP's focus on creating a safe and healthy living environment.

Ranger Services – Service Improvement

The Shire is progressing the transition to bring Ranger Services back in-house. This change aims to improve responsiveness, compliance management, and community service levels. The CBP highlights the importance of staff capability and retention as a key focus area.

Key Worker Housing

Key worker housing has been included in the draft 2026/27 Budget, subject to State Government grant support. This aligns with the CBP's direction to construct smaller, fit-for-purpose dwellings to support workforce attraction.

Shire Office Roof Renewal

The renewal of the Shire Office roof is included in the draft 2026/27 Budget as part of the CBP's critical asset renewal priorities.
The CBP identifies the Administration Centre as a critical asset requiring sustained investment.

Waste Services – Transition to Transfer Station

The Shire has successfully transitioned from a traditional landfill model to a transfer station, improving compliance, environmental management, and long-term sustainability. This aligns with the CBP's organisational efficiency and critical asset renewal focus. Further works are scheduled to improve environmental outcomes and partnership with waste management contractors.

New Inclusion – Depot Facility Replacement

Following structural assessment and demolition, the construction of a new Depot facility has been added to the CBP as a new strategic deliverable. The Depot is identified as a critical operational asset.

Renewable Energy and Charging Infrastructure

Electric vehicle charging stations have been installed, supporting the CBP's future-focused strategic direction and alignment with renewable energy opportunities. The CEO vehicle renewal will be to an EV to further support the continued strategic shift to renewable energy alternatives.

Community Needs Assessment

A Community Needs Assessment has been included in the draft budget to further inform the Growth and Prosperity strategic focus area and ensure future planning and decision making is evidence-based.

OVERALL ASSESSMENT

The Shire continues to make strong progress across the majority of strategic deliverables identified in the Corporate Business Plan. Major capital projects are advancing, organisational improvements are underway, and new priorities have emerged that strengthen alignment with the Strategic Community Plan.

The review confirms that the CBP remains an accurate and effective guiding document, with updates incorporated into the draft 2026/27 Budget to reflect current conditions, funding opportunities, and operational capacity.

FORWARD PROGRAM

The Shire has recently completed a comprehensive Community Survey, and the findings will directly inform the forthcoming review of the Strategic Community Plan. Following adoption of the revised SCP, a full and detailed review of the Corporate Business Plan will be undertaken to ensure alignment between community priorities, strategic direction, and operational delivery.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

The annual review of the Corporate Business Plan 2024–2034 is assessed as having a high level of significance for the organisation. The CBP is the Shire's primary medium-term operational planning document and directly informs the development of the Annual Budget, long-term resourcing decisions, and prioritisation of strategic deliverables.
The review ensures continued alignment with the Strategic Community Plan 2022-2032, current financial capacity, workforce capability, and emerging community needs.
Key strategic projects, such as the childcare facility, Solomon Terrace Precinct, key worker housing, and critical asset renewal, are materially influenced by this review.

CONSULTATION

Senior Management

The review does not trigger mandatory public consultation under legislation; however, community engagement will occur through project-specific processes such as the Community Needs Assessment.

The Shire has recently completed a comprehensive Community Survey, and the findings will directly inform the forthcoming review of the Strategic Community Plan.

LEGISLATION AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

- Section 5.56 of the Local Government Act 1995
- Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996
- Strategic Community Plan
- Strategic Resource Plan

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

The review incorporates several significant financial considerations that have been reflected in the draft 2026/27 Annual Budget, including:

- Continued delivery of the childcare project, with construction underway.
- Inclusion of key worker housing, subject to State Government funding support.
- Allocation for Shire Office roof renewal in 2026/27.
- Transition from landfill to transfer station, with operational efficiencies realised.
- Construction of a new Depot facility following demolition of the existing structure.
- Scheduled installation of the CCTV network in 2026/27.
- Ongoing implementation of the Tourism Plan, with further deliverables planned this financial year.
- Resourcing adjustments associated with bringing Ranger Services in-house to improve service responsiveness.
- Funding for a Community Needs Assessment to support future strategic planning under Growth and Prosperity.

These items collectively influence both operational and capital budgets, workforce planning, and long-term financial sustainability.

CONCLUSION

The annual review confirms that the Corporate Business Plan 2024-2034 remains an accurate and effective strategic document guiding the Shire’s medium-term priorities.

Significant progress has been achieved across major deliverables, including childcare construction, Solomon Terrace advancement, transition to a transfer station, installation of charging stations, and preparation for CCTV rollout.

Emerging priorities, such as the new Depot facility and key worker housing, have been incorporated to ensure alignment with organisational needs and community expectations.

The reviewed CBP provides a clear and realistic foundation for finalising the 2026/27 Annual Budget and continuing to deliver on the Shire’s strategic aspirations.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – 11.1.4a Corporate Business Plan 2024-2034 – Tracked Changes.
Attachment 2 – 11.1.4b Corporate Business Plan 2024-2034 – Clean.

11.1.5 Endorsement of Advocacy for the Morawa Licensed Post Office

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

260710 Moved: Cr. Stokes Seconded: Cr. North

That Council:

1. **Endorse the statement regarding the Morawa Licensed Post Office.**

2. **Authorise the Shire President and Chief Executive Officer to distribute the endorsed statement to local media, relevant state and federal Members of Parliament, and directly to the Senate Inquiry into Australia Post's retail network**

3. **Refer the matter to the WALGA Zone for consideration and sector-wide advocacy, noting the broader implications for regional local governments and the need for a coordinated policy position.**

CARRIED BY SIMPLE MAJORITY VOTE 7/0

PURPOSE

To seek Council endorsement for a formal position advocating against any reduction of services at the Morawa Licensed Post Office (LPO), and to encourage community participation in the current federal Senate Inquiry into Australia Post's retail network.

BACKGROUND

The Morawa Licensed Post Office is a locally owned, independent business that provides essential financial, civic, and government services to the Shire of Morawa. Following the withdrawal of traditional regional bank branches, the Morawa LPO now operates as the sole remaining physical banking and financial transactional facility within the district.

A Senate Inquiry is currently examining Australia Post's retail network, with proposed corporate changes posing a significant risk to the continuity of critical services delivered through rural LPOs. Any reduction in these services would have substantial negative impacts on the liveability, accessibility, and economic resilience of Morawa.

In addition to core postal functions, the Morawa LPO provides an extensive suite of government, financial, identity, and community services. Many of these services are delivered with minimal remuneration to the operator, despite requiring considerable administrative effort, printing, certification, and processing. The breadth of services offered is vital to residents.

The LPOGroup, representing more than 2,500 Licensed Post Offices nationally, has highlighted longstanding structural issues within Australia Post's operating model, including significant underpayment for mandated government and banking services. Rural LPOs frequently absorb responsibilities previously carried by banks, government agencies, and corporate offices, often with minimal remuneration despite substantial administrative effort.

Key services currently provided include:

- Banking services and Billpay
- Working with Children Checks
- National Police Clearances
- Passport applications and ID photographs
- Verification of identity for banks and government agencies
- Property transfers and tax file number applications
- Approved Manager and Bar Manager licensing
- Regional Pensioner Travel Card processing
- Dangerous Goods Security Card applications
- Travel insurance, foreign currency, travel cards, and money orders
- Witnessing statutory declarations and certifying identity documents
- Western Union

The operator has also highlighted that many essential community-support functions occur informally through the LPO, reflecting its role as a trusted, safe and accessible point of contact for residents.

These include assisting people who have difficulty reading or writing to complete government forms; providing a supportive environment for seniors and vulnerable residents; helping tourists and new residents navigate local services; supporting individuals experiencing grief, loss or domestic violence; assisting seniors with technology, phone credit and scam prevention; facilitating wellness checks; helping Indigenous community members with complex applications; providing change and floats for community groups; securely storing keys for clubs; reviewing community group financials; acting as an informal information centre; supporting children seeking help; filling community service gaps when other businesses close; sponsoring local groups; remaining open daily during COVID-19; and serving as a drop-off point for a wide range of community needs.

These functions, while not part of Australia Post's formal service list, demonstrate the irreplaceable social role the Morawa LPO plays in community wellbeing.

DRAFT STATEMENT OF ENDORSEMENT

<u>Shire of Morawa Council Statement: Protection of Essential Services at the Morawa Licensed Post Office</u>

The Shire of Morawa Council declares its unequivocal support for our locally owned Licensed Post Office (LPO) and its operator, Mia Andrews.

Following the withdrawal of traditional banking institutions from our region, the Morawa LPO has become much more than a mail distribution centre—it is the backbone of our financial and civic infrastructure. It is currently the only physical banking facility operating within the Shire.

The LPO also provides a critical gateway to essential government and corporate identity services relied upon daily by regional Australians, including identity verification, passport processing, employment and safety clearances, property transactions, foreign currency services, and a wide range of licensing and certification functions. Rural LPOs have become de facto community service centres, absorbing responsibilities previously carried by banks, government agencies, and corporate offices.

In Morawa, the LPO additionally performs a wide range of informal community-support functions that are not formally recognised or remunerated, but which are vital to the wellbeing, safety and connectedness of residents. The loss of these functions would have profound social impacts that extend far beyond postal or banking services.

To reduce or compromise these services in the name of corporate streamlining would severely disadvantage the Morawa community. The impacts would fall disproportionately on elderly residents, local businesses, and vulnerable community members who depend on face-to-face service, trusted local support, and accessible information.

The Shire of Morawa Council formally resolves to:

1. Advocate directly to Australia Post, relevant Federal Ministers, and the Senate Inquiry Committee to protect and expand rather than diminish rural LPO services.

2. Lobby for rural LPOs to be empowered to offer expanded services, including the ability to open new bank accounts and act as broader hubs for federal and state government agencies.

3. Encourage all Morawa residents, community groups, and local businesses to urgently submit feedback to the Senate Inquiry via the LPOGroup community portal or by visiting the Morawa LPO in person.

Morawa must stand together to ensure our essential services are protected for generations to come.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

This matter is considered to have high community significance due to:

- The LPO being the only remaining physical banking facility in the Shire.
- The reliance of elderly residents, vulnerable community members, and local businesses on face-to-face services.
- The potential long-term impact on Morawa's economic resilience, accessibility, and liveability.
- The extensive informal community-support functions undertaken by the LPO operator, which would be lost if services were reduced.

The issue also carries regional significance, as similar risks apply to neighbouring rural communities.

CONSULTATION

- The Morawa LPO operator.
- Review of national advocacy materials published by the LPOGroup, representing more than 2,500 Licensed Post Offices across Australia.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Advocacy aligns with Council's strategic objectives relating to community wellbeing, service accessibility, and regional resilience.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

Minimal staff resource allocation. These requirements can be met within existing operational capacity.

CONCLUSION

The Morawa Licensed Post Office provides essential financial, civic, and government services that underpin the daily functioning and long-term resilience of the community. It also performs a wide range of informal community-support functions that contribute significantly to social cohesion, safety, and wellbeing. Proposed reductions to rural LPO services pose a significant risk to Morawa's accessibility, liveability, and economic stability. Endorsing a formal Council position will strengthen local advocacy, support the LPO operator, and encourage community participation in the Senate Inquiry. Protecting Morawa's LPO also contributes to the broader national effort to ensure rural Australians retain equitable access to essential services.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

11.1.6 Additional ARIC Meeting - 12 August 2026

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

260711 **Moved: Cr. North** **Seconded: Cr. Stokes**

That Council:

1. **Approves** the scheduling of an additional Audit & Risk Committee e-meeting on Wednesday, 12 August 2026, for the purpose of reviewing the draft Compliance Audit Return (CAR) in accordance with the updated DLGSC CAR process; and

2. **Notes** that the draft CAR will be presented to the ARIC at this meeting prior to being submitted to Council for endorsement and subsequent lodgement.

CARRIED BY SIMPLE MAJORITY VOTE 7/0

PURPOSE

To seek Council approval to schedule an additional Audit & Risk Committee (ARIC) e-meeting on 12 August 2026 to enable the Committee to review the draft Compliance Audit Return (CAR) in accordance with the updated DLGSC CAR process requirements.

BACKGROUND

The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) has released a revised Compliance Audit Return Process, which now mandates that the ARIC formally review the draft CAR prior to its submission to Council and subsequent lodgement with the DLGSC.

The Shire's CAR must be completed and lodged by the statutory deadline. To meet this requirement, an additional ARIC meeting is necessary to ensure the Committee has adequate opportunity to review and comment on the draft CAR before it is presented to Council

DETAILS

The updated CAR process introduces a new procedural step requiring ARIC oversight of the draft CAR. As the next scheduled ARIC meeting falls after the CAR preparation timeline, an additional e-meeting is required.

It is proposed that an ARIC e-meeting be convened on Wednesday, 12 August 2026, for the purpose of reviewing the draft CAR. This will ensure compliance with the revised DLGSC process and maintain strong governance oversight.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

Low: The scheduling of an additional ARIC meeting is an administrative governance requirement necessary to comply with updated statutory processes.

CONSULTATION

Consultation has occurred between the Shire President, the ARIC Chair, and the CEO.

LEGISLATION AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Local Government Act 1995
Local Government (Audit) Regulations 1996
DLGSC Compliance Audit Return Process (2026 update)

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

The additional e-meeting can be accommodated within existing governance and administrative resources.

CONCLUSION

The updated CAR process requires ARIC review of the draft CAR prior to lodgement. Scheduling an additional ARIC e-meeting on 12 August 2026 ensures compliance with the revised requirements and supports strong governance practice.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

11.2 Executive Manager – Corporate and Community Services

11.2.1 Monthly Financial Report – June 2026

Author: Executive Manager- Corporate and Community 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

260712 Moved: Cr. Clemson Seconded: Cr. Francis

That Council receive:

1. **The Monthly Financial Report for the period ending 30 June 2026, as presented in the attached report.**

CARRIED BY SIMPLE MAJORITY VOTE 7/0

PURPOSE

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

DETAIL

Regulation 34 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 (the Regulations) requires a local government to prepare each month a statement of financial activity reporting on the revenue and expenditure, including:

a. The annual budget estimates;
b. Budget estimates to the end of the month;
c. The actual amounts of expenditure, revenue, income to the end of the relevant month;
d. Material variances between the comparable amounts between budget estimates to the end of the month and the year to date amount of expenditure, revenue and income to the end of the relevant month;
e. Net current assets at the end of the relevant month and a note containing a summary explaining the composition of the net current assets.

Regulation 35 of the Regulations requires a local government to prepare each month a statement of financial position of the local government as at the last day of the previous month and the last day of the previous financial year.

OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Monthly Financial Report for the period ending 30 June 2026 is attached to include the following information as required by legislation:

- Statement of financial activity
- Statement of financial position
- Basis of preparation and significant accounting policies
- Notes to the statement of financial activity; and
- Explanation of material variances.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

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

CONSULTATION

Chief Executive Officer

LEGISLATION AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996
Regulation 34

(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 35

(1) requires a local government to prepare each month a statement of financial position of the local government as at the last day of the previous month and the last day of the previous financial year.

(2) A statement of financial position must be –

(a) presented at an ordinary meeting of the council within 2 months after the end of the previous month; and
(b) recorded in the minutes of the meeting at which it is presented.
(c)

Strategic Community Plan 2022 - 2032

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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 Monthly Financial Report for the period ending 30 June 2026, as attached.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – 11.2.1a Monthly Financial Report as at 30 June 2026.

11.2.2 List of Payments – June 2026

Author:	Financial Services Coordinator Executive Manager - Corporate and Community 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

260713 **Moved: Cr. North** **Seconded: Cr. Clemson**

That Council receive:

1. **The List of Payments for the period ending 30 June 2026.**
2. **The Bank Reconciliation Report for period ending 30 June 2026.**
3. **Declarations of reimbursements made to the Chief Executive Officer for the period ending 30 June 2026.**

CARRIED BY SIMPLE MAJORITY VOTE 7/0

PURPOSE

To present the list of accounts paid by the Chief Executive Officer under delegated authority for the month ended 30 June 2026.

DETAIL

Regulation 13 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996* requires a list of accounts paid to be presented to Council at the next Ordinary Council Meeting after the list has been prepared.

Pursuant to Section 5.42 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, Council has delegated authority to the Chief Executive Officer to make payments from the Municipal Fund and Trust Fund.

In accordance with these requirements, the list of accounts paid for the period 1 June 2026 to 30 June 2026 is attached to this report (**Attachment 1**) and summarised in the table below for Council's information and consideration.

Bank	Payment Description	Amount
Municipal	Electronic Funds Transfers (EFT) Less Fuel Cards	$562,848.03
Municipal	Cheques No:	0.00
Municipal	Direct Debit Transactions	$40,508.54
Municipal	Bank Transfers / Payroll / Other Payments	$ 188,824.83
Municipal	Corporate Credit Cards / Fuel Cards	$ 3,588.16
Trust	Electronic Funds Transfers (EFT)	0.00
	TOTAL	**$795,769.56**

The Bank Reconciliation Report for the period ended 30 June 2026 has been prepared in accordance with statutory requirements and is attached to this report (**Attachment 2**). A summary of the reconciliation is provided in the table below:

Account	Balance
Municipal Account	4,004,163.15
Municipal Online Account	1,185,306.71
Trust Account	1,525.11
Reserve Account	5,324,053.93
Term Deposits (Reserves)	2,100,000.00
Total Cash & Investments	**12,615,048.90**

Reimbursement Applications
There have been no reimbursements claimed during the month of June 2026.

OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The attached list details payments made during June 2026 under delegated authority. Payments have been processed via Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT), direct transfer, direct debit, purchasing cards, and reimbursements made to the Chief Executive Officer, in accordance with the Shire's financial management practices and delegated authority provisions.

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 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

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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 list of payments made under the Chief Executive Officer's delegated authority and the bank reconciliation report for the period ending 30 June 2026.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – 11.2.2a List of Accounts Paid for the period ending 30 June 2026.
Attachment 2 – 11.2.2b Bank Reconciliation for the period ending 30 June 2026.

11.3 Executive Manager – Works & Services.

11.3.1 Annual Road Maintenance Grading Program Update

Author: Executive Manager Works & Services

Authorizing 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

260714 **Moved: Cr. Coaker** **Seconded: Cr. Chadwick**

That Council:

1. **Receive the Annual Road Maintenance Program Update: June 2025/26.**

CARRIED BY SIMPLE MAJORITY VOTE 7/0

PURPOSE

For Council to receive an update of the ongoing Shire of Morawa Annual Road Maintenance Program.

DETAIL

Council is being presented with an update on the annual program of road maintenance works to ensure transparency and ongoing oversight. This will provide the status of the annual program as of the end of the previous calendar month.

The Road Maintenance Grading Program schedule shows the routine grading activities scheduled to restore road surface condition, remove corrugations, and reinstate rainfall runoff functionality ahead of increased seasonal traffic demands.

The program targets approximately 1,788 km of maintenance grading per annum, with a primary focus on Restricted Access Vehicle (RAV) routes and school bus routes. This prioritisation ensures the delivery of a consistent base standard that supports a safe and reliable running surface for key transport corridors.

As part of the grading program, the following activities are completed to enhance long-term road performance:

- Gravel re-sheeting works, in accordance with the 2025–2035 Road Maintenance and Renewal Plan.
- Increase grading frequency during the dry season, where operationally feasible.

- Investigate the installation of additional mitre and table drains to improve drainage outcomes.
- Apply moisture conditioning prior to future grading activities to minimise material loss and improve compaction.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

Low Significance: Provided for information purposes only.

LEGISLATION AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

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FINANCIAL AND RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

In accordance with the adopted budget.

RISK MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

The Shire of Morawa Annual Road Maintenance program reduces the risk of premature costly renewals while improving road safety.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – 11.3.1a Adopted 2024 – Ten Year Forward Works Program 2025-2035.
Attachment 2 – 11.3.1b Updated Road Maintenance Schedule 25-26.

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 Manager Corporate Community Services

Authorising Officer: Chief Executive Officer

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

The CEO discloses an interest in this matter as it concerns their annual performance review.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION/RESOLUTION

260715 **Moved: Cr. Stokes** **Seconded: Cr. North**

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:

- **Initiation of Annual CEO Performance Review.**

CARRIED BY SIMPLE MAJORITY VOTE 7/0

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:

- 15.1 Initiation of Annual CEO Performance Review.

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.

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Strategic Community Plan 2022 to 2032

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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 Initiation of Annual CEO Performance Review

This is a Confidential Item

15.2 Reopening of the Meeting to the Public

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION/RESOLUTION

260717 Moved: Cr. Coaker Seconded: Cr. North

That Council reopens the meeting to the public.

CARRIED BY SIMPLE MAJORITY VOTE 7/0

15.3 Presiding Member Publicly Confirms Confidential Item Resolutions

The Presiding Member publicly confirms the Confidential Item Resolutions:

- *Item 15.1 – Initiation of Annual CEO Performance Review was passed by Simple Majority.*

Item 16 Closure

16.1 Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next ordinary meeting of Council will be Tuesday, 25th August 2026 commencing at 5.30pm, in the Council Chambers.

16.2 Closure

There being no further business, the Presiding Member declared the meeting closed 5.45pm.