



MINUTES FOR THE
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY
15th May 2014



MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON Thursday 15th May 2014

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Next Meeting

Ordinary Meeting 19th June, 2014

1 Declaration of Opening

The Shire President declared the meeting open at 5.30 pm.

1.1 Recording of Those Present

Cr K J Chappel	President
Cr D B Collins	
Cr D J Coaker	
Cr D S Agar	
Cr M J Thornton	
Cr K P Stokes	

Mr S Fletcher	Chief Executive Officer
Mr P Buist	Principal Works Manager
Ms W Gledhill	Manager of Accounting and Finance

1.2 Recording of Apologies

Cr D S Carslake	Deputy President
Mr D Williams	Deputy Chief Executive Office

1.3 Recording Leave of Absence Previously Approved

Nil

1.4 Welcoming of Visitors to the Meeting

Nil

1.5 Announcements by the Presiding Member without Discussion

Nil

2 Public Question Time

Nil

2.1 Response to previous public questions taken on notice

Nil

2.2 Public question time

Nil

3 Declaration of Interest

Members are to declare financial, proximity and indirect interests

Nil

4 Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting

4.1 Confirmation of Minutes 17th April 2014-Ordinary Meeting

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

**Moved: Cr M J Thornton
Seconded: Cr D B Collins**

That the Minutes item 4.1 – 17th April – Ordinary Council Meeting be confirmed.

**CARRIED
6/0**

5 Public Statements, Petitions, Presentations and Approved Deputations

6 Method of Dealing with Agenda Business

7 Reports

7.1 Reports from Committees

7.1.1 Morawa Community Aged Care Committee Report
7.1.1a Attachment to Above Report

7.2 Reports from the Chief Executive Officer

7.2 Reports from the Chief Executive Officer
7.2.1 Status Report
7.2.1a Status Report Attachment

7.2 Reports from the Chief Executive Officer

<i>Date of Meeting:</i>	15 May 2014
<i>Item No:</i>	7.1.1
<i>Subject:</i>	Morawa Community Aged Care Committee Report
<i>Date & Author:</i>	6 May 2014 Sean Fletcher
<i>Responsible Officer:</i>	Chief Executive Officer
<i>Applicant/Proponent:</i>	Chief Executive Officer Sean Fletcher
<i>File Number:</i>	Various
<i>Previous minute/s & Reference:</i>	Council Meeting 17 April 2014

SUMMARY

The Morawa Community Aged Care Committee Report provides an update on the progress of matters regarding the Committee.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

The author has no interest to declare in this report.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Morawa Community Aged Care Committee Action Matrix

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In summary the key steps or work of the Committee to date is updated as follows:

Component	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Establish Committee · Appointment · 1 st Meeting								
Compliance Framework: · Support materials · Develop policies								
Develop Service Delivery Plan (Fees & charges, risk management, LTFP)								
Handover of units: · Joint Venture · Other								
Implement property management								
Resolve other matters e.g. stakeholder access								
Implement engagement process: · Community, Unit users								

Legend

Completed	Projected

Timeline: Key Steps of the Work of the Committee 2014

Provided for Council's information is the Committee's action matrix submitted at the April Committee meeting, which is attached.

Further to the above, the Morawa Community Aged Care Committee resolved at its April meeting to ask the Chief Executive Officer to:

- a. Develop the Service Delivery Plan as a final draft for the Committee's consideration at its meeting on 13 May 2014.
- b. Develop draft policies for the Committee's consideration at its meeting on 13 May 2014 regarding:
 - i. Eligibility criteria regarding the occupancy of the aged units; and
 - ii. Other such criteria regarding the management of the aged units.

Accordingly, the author submitted the final draft of the Service Delivery Plan to the Committee at its meeting on 13 May 2014. This has allowed the author to put forward preliminary costs including fees and charges and the framing of appropriate reserves for the 2014/15 Budget.

The author also submitted a number of draft policies including:

- Eligibility criteria for of the aged units (Joint Venture and Non Assets Based);
- Fees and charges for the aged units; and
- Responsibilities of the Shire.

Both the Service Delivery Plan and the draft policies developed to date will be presented to Council for adoption at the June/July council meetings.

The author has also issued to the committee members a resources file, had ongoing conversations with the Department of Housing, the Department of Lands, the Department of Commerce and Morawa Community Care Inc. regarding the handover of Morawa Villas to the Shire. The author has also put an update in the Morawa Scene for 13 May 21014 regarding the Committee's progress.

OFFICER'S COMMENT

The Committee has no matters for Council's formal consideration in this report.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Nil

COUNCILLOR CONSULTATION

Council Briefing Session 15 May 2014.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

Nil

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Not Applicable

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Not Applicable

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

Not Applicable

RISK MANAGEMENT

Not Applicable

VOTING REQUIREMENT:

Simple Majority

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

Council accepts the Morawa Community Aged Care Report for May 2014 submitted by the Chief Executive Officer.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr K P Stokes
Seconded: Cr D S Agar

Council accepts the Morawa Community Aged Care Report for May 2014 submitted by the Chief Executive Officer.

**CARRIED
6/0**

<i>Date of Meeting:</i>	15 May 2014
<i>Item No:</i>	7.2.1
<i>Subject:</i>	Status Report
<i>Date & Author:</i>	2 May 2014 Sean Fletcher
<i>Responsible Officer:</i>	Chief Executive Officer
<i>Applicant/Proponent:</i>	Chief Executive Officer Sean Fletcher
<i>File Number:</i>	Various
<i>Previous minute/s & Reference:</i>	17 April 2014 (Last Update to Council)

SUMMARY

The Status Report provides an update on the progress of matters that have come before Council where a decision was made.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

The author has no interest to declare in this report.

ATTACHMENTS

Shire of Morawa May 2014 Status Report.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Status Report provides an update on the progress of matters that have come before Council where a decision was made.

OFFICER'S COMMENT

As per the Status Report

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

As per the Status Report

COUNCILLOR CONSULTATION

As per the Status Report

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

Shire of Morawa Meeting Procedures Local Law 2012 (Standing Orders).

The author stated in the November 2013 Status Report that the Status Report is not listed in the Standing Orders. In the December update to Council, the author advised this report was moved from Section 5 of the Agenda and located within Section 7.2 which is for reports from the Chief Executive Officer as per the Standing Orders. In due course, the Status Report will be moved to the Information Bulletin

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Not Applicable

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Not Applicable

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

Not Applicable

RISK MANAGEMENT

Not Applicable

VOTING REQUIREMENT:

Simple Majority

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

Council accepts the Shire of Morawa May 2014 Status Report submitted by the Chief Executive Officer.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr D S Agar
Seconded: Cr D J Coaker

Council accepts the Shire of Morawa May 2014 Status Report submitted by the Chief Executive Officer.

**CARRIED
6/0**

7.2.2 **Manager Finance and Accounting**
Documents issued separately

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr K P Stokes
Seconded: Cr D J Coaker

Items 7.2.2.1 Accounts Due for Payment April 2014
7.2.2.1a List of Creditors April 2014 (Attachment)
7.2.2.2 Reconciliations April 2014
7.2.2.3 Monthly Financial Statements April 2014

Be moved en bloc.

**CARRIED
6/0**

<i>Date of Meeting:</i>	15 th May 2014
<i>Item No:</i>	7.2.2.1
<i>Subject:</i>	Accounts Due for Payment
<i>Date & Author:</i>	13/5/2014 Jenny Mutter
<i>Responsible Officer:</i>	Finance Officer
<i>Applicant/Proponent:</i>	
<i>File Number:</i>	ADM 0135
<i>Previous minute/s & Reference:</i>	

SUMMARY

A list of accounts is attached for all payments made for the month of April 2014.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Nil

ATTACHMENTS

List of accounts Due & Submitted to council March 2014

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT) REGULATIONS 1996 – REG 13

The local government has delegated to the CEO the exercise of power to make payments from the municipal fund or the trust fund, a list of accounts paid by the CEO is prepared each month showing for each account paid since the last such list was prepared.

OFFICER'S COMMENT

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

COUNCILLOR CONSULTATION

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT) REGULATIONS 1996 – REG 13

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

As per list of accounts

STRATEGIC IMPLICATION

RISK MANAGEMENT

VOTING REQUIREMENT:

Simple Majority

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the list of accounts paid by the Chief Executive Officer under delegated authority, represented by:

- Municipal EFT Payment Numbers EFT6184 to EFT6264 inclusive, amounting to \$382,478.61;
- Municipal Cheque Payments numbered 11107 to 11130 totalling \$61,984.34;
- Municipal Direct Debit Payments Numbers DD3771.1, DD3773.1, DD3775.1, DD3777.1, DD3779.1 & DD3784.1 amounting to \$9,262.72;
- Payroll for April 2014
09/04/2014 - \$54,018.83
23/04/2014 - \$48,738.74
Be endorsed.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: en bloc.

That the list of accounts paid by the Chief Executive Officer under delegated authority, represented by:

- **Municipal EFT Payment Numbers EFT6184 to EFT6264 inclusive, amounting to \$382,478.61;**
- **Municipal Cheque Payments numbered 11107 to 11130 totalling \$61,984.34;**
- **Municipal Direct Debit Payments Numbers DD3771.1, DD3773.1, DD3775.1, DD3777.1, DD3779.1 & DD3784.1 amounting to \$9,262.72;**
- **Payroll for April 2014
09/04/2014 - \$54,018.83
23/04/2014 - \$48,738.74
Be endorsed.**

Meeting Date:	15 May, 2014
Item No	7.2.2.2
Subject:	Reconciliations April 2014
Date & Author:	7/05/2014– Fred Gledhill
Responsible Officer:	Fred Gledhill/Jenny Mutter
Proponent:	Manager Accounting & Finance
File No:	ADM 0189
Voting Requirements:	Simple Majority

SUMMARY

Local Government (Financial Management) Regulation 34 (1) (a) states that a Local Government must prepare financial statements monthly.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Nil

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The information provided is obtained from the Bank Reconciliations carried out for the Municipal Bank/Reserves Bank and the Trust Bank to ensure all transactions have been accounted for.

OFFICER'S COMMENT

The Shire of Morawa's financial position is as follows:-

BANK BALANCES

The Bank Balances as at 30th April, 2014:-

- Municipal Account #	\$798,982.42
- Trust Account	\$ 17,924.70
- Business Telenet Saver (Reserve)	\$5,384,094.26
- WA Treasury O/Night Facility (Super Towns)	\$2,213,957.50

BANK RECONCILIATION BALANCES

The Bank Reconciliation Balances for 30 April, 2014 with a comparison for 30 April, 2013 is as follows:

	2014	2013
Municipal Account #	\$1,162,781.54	\$233,186.17
Trust Account	\$17,924.70	\$13,111.80
Reserve Account	\$7,582,929.23	\$11,296,301.96

RESERVE ACCOUNT

The Reserve Funds of \$7,582,929.23 as at 30 April, 2014 were invested in:-

- Ø Bank of Western Australia \$5,373,421.03 in the Business Telenet Saver Account and
- Ø \$2,209,508.20 with WA Treasury O/Night Facility.

Breakdown for April 2014 with a comparison for April 2013 is as follows:-

	2014	2013
Sports Complex Upgrade Reserve	\$384,595.88	\$873,013.63
Land & Building Reserve	\$5,013.10	\$4,880.65
Plant Reserve	\$626,432.92	\$736,041.57
Leave Reserve	\$130,673.51	\$187,875.57
Economic Development Reserve	\$103,251.99	\$100,524.03
Sewerage Reserve	\$42,725.38	\$41,422.22
Unspent Grants & Contributions Reserve	\$178,586.31	\$376,788.34
Community Development Reserve	\$1,454,939.38	\$2,593,324.67
Water Waste Management Reserve	\$0.00	\$67,786.66
Future Funds Reserve	\$2,104,443.68	\$2,048,842.97
Morawa Community Trust Reserve	\$24,625.74	\$60,248.02
Aged Care Units Reserve	\$8,625.28	0.00
Transfer Station Reserve	\$320,181.09	\$368,286.45
S/Towns Revitalisation Reserve	\$1,687,460.96	\$2,672,836.20
ST Solar Thermal Power Station Reserve	\$525,496.54	\$513,398.28
Total	\$7,597,051.76	\$10,645,269.26

TRANSFER OF FUNDS

- Ø \$10,000 from Morawa Community Trust Reserve to Municipal Fund on 14 August, 2013 – Tennis Club lights.
- Ø \$800,000 from Community Development Reserve to Municipal Fund on 15 August, 2013 – Sportsground Complex upgrade.
- Ø \$400,000 from SuperTowns Revitalisation Reserve to Municipal Fund on 27th September, 2013- Project Plans and Management for Town Centre.
- Ø \$12,500 from Municipal Fund to Community Development Reserve on 11th October, 2013-Sale of Fines .
- Ø \$118,118.31 from Plan Reserve to Municipal Fund on 19 February, 2014 –PWS ute, works construction crew ute, ISA vehicle, 10 lt diesel fuel tank.
- Ø \$35,532.50 from Unspent Grants Reserve to Municipal Fund on 19 February, 2014 – Last payment from Morawa Community Care.
- Ø \$100,000.00 from Community Development Reserve to Municipal Fund on 19 February, 2014 – Sports complex upgrade final transfer.
- Ø \$76,884.74 from Municipal Fund to Plant Reserve on 7 February, 2014 – Plant depreciation charge 1st and 2nd quarter of budget.
- Ø \$645,000.00 from Super Towns Revitalisation Reserve to Municipal Fund on 27 February, 2014 - further work on Town Revitalisation

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

Local Government Act 1995 and Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Section 3 – Finance 3.4.7 Risk Management Controls – Monthly bank reconciliations to be prepared for each account and reported to Council Monthly

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

As presented

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

Nil

RISK MANAGEMENT

As per Policy Section 3 – Finance 3.4.7 Risk Management Controls

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the bank reconciliation report for 30 April, 2014 be received.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved en bloc.

That the bank reconciliation report for 30 April, 2014 be received.

Meeting Date:	17 April, 2014
Item No	7.2.2.3
Subject:	Monthly Financial Statements
Date & Author:	8/5/14 – Fred Gledhill
Responsible Officer:	Manager Accounting & Finance
Applicant/Proponent:	
File No:	
Voting Requirements:	Simple Majority

SUMMARY

Local Government (Financial Management) Regulation 34(1)(a) states that a Local Government must prepare financial statements monthly.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Nil

ATTACHMENTS

The April Monthly Financial Activity Report/Variance Report and a copy of the schedules pertaining to Councils operations is provided under separate.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

OFFICER'S COMMENT

.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

Local Government Act 1995 and Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

As presented

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

Nil

RISK MANAGEMENT

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council receive the Statement of Financial Activity Report and the variance report for April, 2014.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved en bloc.

That Council receive the Statement of Financial Activity Report and the variance report for April, 2014.

STANDING ORDERS

The President requested Standing Orders be Suspended to allow Council to discuss the initial working draft 2014/2015 budget documents.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

**Moved: Cr M J Thornton
Seconded: Cr D B Collins**

That Standing Orders be suspended under standing order 17.1 for Council to discuss the initial working draft 2014/2015 budget.

**CARRIED
6/0**

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

**Moved: Cr K P Stokes
Seconded: Cr D B Collins**

That Standing Orders are resumed under 17.1 for the meeting to continue.

**6.20pm The CEO retired from the meeting.
6.22pm The CEO rejoined the meeting.**

7.2.3 Community Youth Development Officer

Nil

7.2.4 Project Officer

Date of Meeting:	15 May 2014
Item No:	7.2.4.1
Subject:	Proposed Draft Local Planning Policy Morawa Town Centre Urban Design Guidelines
Date & Author:	10 April 2014, John Elliot (Project Officer)
Applicant/ Proponent:	Shire of Morawa
File Number:	
Previous Minute/s and Reference:	Shire of Morawa Council Meeting Minutes 15th August 2013

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider adoption of the Morawa Town Centre Design Guidelines as a draft Local Planning Policy and consent to the initiation of public advertising in accordance with the Shire of Morawa Town Planning Scheme No 2.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Author of report has no declaration of interest.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Draft Morawa Town Centre Design Guidelines

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Shire of Morawa was successful in gaining funding to prepare Morawa Town Centre Design Guidelines to assist in the future planning and development of the Morawa town centre area.

The Shire of Morawa appointed TPG Town Planning Urban Design & Heritage as a consultant to prepare the Design Guidelines. Since such time, Shire officers have worked closely with TPG in the preparation of a document which puts all the requirements of the planning requirements into a format that business owners, developers and Shire of Morawa staff can use to design future buildings expected to be developed with the town centre.

To accord with Royalty for Regions objectives the Morawa Town Centre Design Guidelines have been designed to assist in:

1. Development of the Shire of Morawa's capacity in terms of ability to properly plan for future commercial and mixed use development in the town centre.
2. Appropriately control development, ensuring compatible land uses are located together and to facilitate the orderly and proper planning of the locality.

3. Promote further commercial uses to develop in the town centre through guidelines outlining the Shire of Morawa's Council planning directives.
4. Promote revitalisation in turn attracting a wider range of activity and utilisation of the Morawa Town Centre.

The guidelines have been prepared in order to comply with strategies and recommendations of the Morawa SuperTown Growth and Implementation Plan.

OFFICER'S COMMENT

The draft guidelines have been structured into various sections, identifying the commercial and mixed use needs of the town centre and best practice guidelines on how to develop and build.

Key design areas covered by the guidelines include:

1. Height, Scale and Form
2. Facades
3. Enhancement contribution Scheme
4. Awnings and Verandas
5. Spacial Design
6. Parking and Site Access
7. Mixed Use Development

The aim of the guidelines is to provide for open shopfront commercial development, providing opportunities for residential mixed use on a second floor or behind commercial buildings fronting Winfield Street and Solomon Terrace.

The document also caters for mixed use activities on Valentine Street ensuring a built form that merges with the adjacent residential zoned land.

It is proposed to adopt the Morawa Town Centre Design Guidelines as a Local Planning Policy under the Shire of Morawa Town Planning Scheme No 2. Business owners and developers will be required to design and renovate buildings located within the Town Centre Commercial and Mixed Use zoned areas in accordance with the design guidelines as it will form part of the local planning framework.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

The Shire of Morawa in collaboration with the project consultants has completed a range of public consultation including public meeting and workshops to gain community and business input.

Further public comment will be initiated as part of the formal public consultation period associated with adoption of the design guidelines as a planning policy.

COUNCILLOR CONSULTATION

Shire of Morawa Councillors have been involved in a range of presentation and workshops associated with the preparation of the Morawa Town Centre Design Guidelines.

Information detailed in this item was presented to Council at the April 2014 meeting as an agenda item, but was not considered as the motion lapsed.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

Local Government Act 1995
Planning and Development Act 2005
Shire of Morawa Town Planning Scheme No 2

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Shire has received a total of \$55,000 grant agreement via the Department of Planning's Northern Planning Projects funding scheme. This grant will cover the entire cost associated with the preparation and adoption of the Design Guidelines as a planning policy.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

The Morawa Town Centre Design Guidelines is identified as a key planning project to be implemented under the Shire of Morawa SuperTown Growth and Implementation Plan.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The adoption of the Morawa Town Centre Design Guidelines as a Local Planning Policy will only become operative following completion of the process detailed in section 8.6.2 of the Shire of Morawa Town Planning Scheme No 2.

A Policy shall become operative only after the following procedures have been completed:

- a) The Council having prepared and adopted a draft Policy shall publish a notice once a week for two consecutive weeks in a local newspaper circulating within the Scheme Area giving details of where the draft Policy may be inspected, and in what form and during what period (being not less than 21 days) submissions may be made.*
- b) Policies which the Council considers may be inconsistent with other provisions of the Scheme or with State and regional planning policies are to be submitted to the Commission for consideration and advice.*
- c) The Council shall review the draft Policy in the light of any submissions made and advice received and shall then resolve either to finally adopt the draft Policy with or without modification, or not to proceed with the draft Policy.*
- d) Following final adoption of a Policy, notification of the final adoption shall be published once in a newspaper circulating within the Scheme Area.*

The adoption of the Morawa Town Centre Design Guidelines as a local Planning Policy will conform to this process

VOTING REQUIREMENT:

Simple majority.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council, in accordance with Clause 8.6 of the Shire of Morawa Town Planning Scheme No. 2:

- 1) Adopt the Morawa Town Centre Design Guidelines as a draft Local Planning Policy.
- 2) Publish a notice once a week for two consecutive weeks in a local newspaper circulating within the Scheme Area giving details of where the draft Policy may be inspected, and in what form and during what period (being not less than 21 days) submissions may be made.
- 3) Upon completion of the public advertising period, consider any submissions received and review the policy where necessary for Councils further consideration.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr K P Stokes

Seconded: Cr D S Agar

That Council, in accordance with Clause 8.6 of the Shire of Morawa Town Planning Scheme No. 2:

- 1) **Adopt the Morawa Town Centre Design Guidelines as a draft Local Planning Policy.**
- 2) **Publish a notice once a week for two consecutive weeks in a local newspaper circulating within the Scheme Area giving details of where the draft Policy may be inspected, and in what form and during what period (being not less than 21 days) submissions may be made.**
- 3) **Upon completion of the public advertising period, consider any submissions received and review the policy where necessary for Councils further consideration.**

CARRIED

6/0

Date of Meeting: 15 May 2014
Item No: 7.2.4.2
Subject: Planning Application for Transportable House on Lot 13
(location 14557) Morawa Three Springs Road, Morawa

Date & Author: 2 May 2014, John Elliot (Project Officer)
Responsible Officer: John Elliot (Project Officer)
Applicant/Proponent: Christopher Duncan Moffet
File Number: 0048
Previous minute/s &
Reference: Not Applicable

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider a planning application for the approval of a five bedroom two bathroom transportable house to be located and sited on Lot 13 (Location 14557) Morawa Three Springs Road for farm manager accommodation.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Author of report has no declaration of interest.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Location plan
2. Site plan and elevations of the transportable building
3. Planning application

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A planning application has been submitted by Mr Christopher Duncan Moffet for planning approval to locate a five bedroom transportable house for farm manager residence on Lot 13 (Location 14557) Morawa Three Springs Road, Morawa.

The subject land is zoned 'Rural' under the Shire of Morawa Town Planning Scheme No 2.

OFFICER'S COMMENT

Consideration for this proposal is required as the proposed development is deemed a transportable building. The Shire of Morawa Local Planning Scheme No.2 Scheme text provides that:-

- (a) *'A transportable or secondhand building may not be transported to and placed on a lot within the Scheme area and thereafter occupied as a residential dwelling (whether in whole or in part) except with the approval of Council and in accordance with any conditions contained in such approval.'*

(b) In considering whether or not to grant approval for a transportable or secondhand building, the Council shall have regard to:-

- (i) the appearance and external materials of the building, and any proposed alterations thereto;*
- (ii) the amenity of the locality;*
- (iii) the visual prominence of the site;*
- (iv) any proposed landscaping or screening of the site; and*
- (v) all applicable statutes, by-laws and regulations relating to dwelling houses applicable both to the transportable or secondhand building and the upon which it is to be located following transportation.*

(c) In granting approval for a transportable or secondhand building, the Council may impose conditions including conditions which:-

- (i) require landscaping to be established within a specific time and thereafter maintained; and*
- (ii) require the applicant or owner to provide a bond or bank guarantee to Council as surety for the completion of the transportable or secondhand building to a standard of presentation acceptable to Council within a specific time frame. Should Council require the provision of a bond, such monies shall be deposited in an interest bearing Trust account and upon the satisfactory completion of the necessary works, such monies owing shall be refunded.'*

Similar transportable house planning applications have been approved by Council and no requirement for landscaping or bond/bank guarantees have been imposed as a condition of planning approval.

The applicant has advised that the dwelling will be utilised as farm worker housing, providing a residence for the farm manager and his family. The house will be connected to an electrical power supply provided by Western Power, solar powered bore and dam to supply potable water and utilisation of a septic sewerage wastewater system.

The proposed location and use of the dwelling conforms to the objectives of the Shire of Morawa Town Planning Scheme No 2.

It is considered appropriate to include an advice note advising the proponent that a building licence and approval of any proposed wastewater/septic sewerage system is required prior to the commencement of site works and location of the transportable building onsite.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Surrounding landholdings are under the ownership of the proponent and no community consultation is required under the Shire of Morawa Town Planning Scheme No 2.

COUNCILLOR CONSULTATION

No previous discussion of the planning application information has been presented to Councillors.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

Planning and Development Act 2005
Shire of Morawa Local Planning Scheme No .2
Local Government Act 1996

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

No known policy implications.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

No known financial implications.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

No known Strategic Implications.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The proposed development conforms to the objectives and land use requirements of the Shire of Morawa Town Planning Scheme No 2.

VOTING REQUIREMENT:

Simple majority.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

Council approve the planning application for a five bedroom two bathroom transportable home to be located on Lot 13 (Location 14557) Morawa Three Springs Road, Morawa.

and

The proponent being advised:

- of the need to apply for a Building Permit from the Shire of Morawa prior to the commencement of site works and location of the transportable building onsite in accordance with the requirements of the Building Code of Australia and the Building Act 2011.

- of the need to apply for approval for the wastewater/septic sewerage system associated with the development from the Shire of Morawa prior to the commencement of site works and location of the transportable building onsite.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr M J Thornton

Seconded: Cr D S Agar

Council approve the planning application for a five bedroom two bathroom transportable home to be located on Lot 13 (Location 14557) Morawa Three Springs Road, Morawa.

and

The proponent being advised:

- **of the need to apply for a Building Permit from the Shire of Morawa prior to the commencement of site works and location of the transportable building onsite in accordance with the requirements of the Building Code of Australia and the Building Act 2011.**
- **of the need to apply for approval for the wastewater/septic sewerage system associated with the development from the Shire of Morawa prior to the commencement of site works and location of the transportable building onsite.**

CARRIED

6/0

Date of Meeting: **15 May 2014**
Item No: **7.2.4.3**
Subject: **Financial Assistance Agreement Mid West Investment Plan for Morawa Town Revitalisation Project**

Date & Author: **5 May 2014 John Elliot**

Applicant/Proponent: **Shire of Morawa**

Previous minute/s & Reference:

February 2012, September 2012, April 2012, October 2013, September 2013, February 2014

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is for Council to authorise the affixation of the Common Seal of the Shire of Morawa to the Royalty for Regions Financial Assistance Agreement - Morawa Town Revitalisation in the presence of the Shire President and the Chief Executive Officer.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Nil

ATTACHMENTS

Royalty for Regions Financial Assistance Agreement - Morawa Town Revitalisation

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

On the 16th December 2013 Cabinet approved \$2, 536,000 in Royalty for Regions Funding to the Shire of Morawa to assist in the costs associated with the Morawa SuperTown Revitalisation project Stages 1 & 2, including:

- a) Stage 1 - Creation of the Civic Square, Pedestrian Crossing and improved connection to Solomon Terrace,
- b) Stage 2 - Construction of the Parallel Freight Alignment

The approved funding is sourced from the Regional Infrastructure and Headworks Fund – Mid West Investment Plan with the purpose of meeting the cost of construction and project management costs in association with \$3,000,000 obtained in SuperTown funding.

The Department of Regional Development have prepared the associated Financial Assistance Agreement and provided two copies of the documentation for signing and placement of the Shire of Morawa common seal as part of the execution of the agreement.

OFFICER'S COMMENT

The Financial Assistance Agreement is a legal document between the Department of Regional Development and the Shire to access \$2, 536,000 in Royalty for Regions Funding.

The document provides a agreed structure to access funds and achieve project milestones. The Agreement requires authorised signatories and the affixation of the Shire of Morawa Common Seal to bind the agreement.

The local Government Act 1995, section 9.49A states:

- (1) *A document is duly executed by a local government if —*
 - (a) *the common seal of the local government is affixed to it in accordance with subsections (2) and (3); or*
 - (b) *it is signed on behalf of the local government by a person or persons authorised under subsection (4) to do so*
- (2) *The common seal of a local government is not to be affixed to any document except as authorised by the local government.*
- (3) *The common seal of the local government is to be affixed to a document in the presence of —*
 - (a) *the mayor or president; and*
 - (b) *the chief executive officer or a senior employee authorised by the chief executive officer,*

each of whom is to sign the document to attest that the common seal was so affixed.
- (4) *A local government may, by resolution, authorise the chief executive officer, another employee or an agent of the local government to sign documents on behalf of the local government, either generally or subject to conditions or restrictions specified in the authorisation.*

Conforming to the abovementioned procedures is required under the Local Government Act 1995.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

The Shire of Morawa in collaboration with the project consultants (TPG and Emerge) have completed a range of public consultation including public meetings, surveys and workshops to gain community and business input on the Town Centre Revitalisation project.

COUNCILLOR CONSULTATION

Nil

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

The Local Government Act 1995 section 9.49A

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The approved \$2, 536,000 in Royalty for Regions Funding will assist in the successful completion of the Morawa Town Revitalisation project (Stages 1&2).

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

The Morawa Town Centre Revitalisation Project conforms to the design and planning objectives of the Morawa SuperTown Growth Plan 2012.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The purpose of the Financial Assistance Agreement is to provide a structure detailing Department of Regional Development and Shire of Morawa project responsibilities and requirements for the receipt of the Regional Infrastructure and Headworks Fund – Mid West Investment Plan funding allocation.

The document provides a detailed and legal mechanism to ensure project funding and completion of the project is achieved within budget and in accordance with sound project management methodology.

VOTING REQUIREMENT:

Simple Majority

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

Council under section 9.49 of the Local Government Act 1995 approves:

The common seal of the Shire of Morawa to be affixed to the Royalty for Regions Financial Assistance Agreement - Morawa Town Revitalisation (Regional Infrastructure and Headworks Fund – Mid West Investment Plan) in the presence of the Shire President and the Chief Executive Officer, each of whom is to sign the document to attest that the common seal was so affixed.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr K P Stokes

Seconded: Cr M J Thornton

Council under section 9.49 of the Local Government Act 1995 approves:

The common seal of the Shire of Morawa to be affixed to the Royalty for Regions Financial Assistance Agreement - Morawa Town Revitalisation (Regional Infrastructure and Headworks Fund – Mid West Investment Plan) in the presence of the Shire President and the Chief Executive Officer, each of whom is to sign the document to attest that the common seal was so affixed.

**CARRIED
6/0**

<i>Date of Meeting:</i>	15 May 2014
<i>Item No:</i>	7.2.4.4
<i>Subject:</i>	Planning Application for a Workers Accommodation Building - 31 Powell Street, Morawa
<i>Date & Author:</i>	6 May 2014, John Elliot (Project Officer)
<i>Responsible Officer:</i>	John Elliot (Project Officer)
<i>Applicant/Proponent:</i>	Cooperative Bulk Handling Limited
<i>File Number:</i>	0048
<i>Previous minute/s & Reference:</i>	Not Applicable

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider a planning application for the approval of a four bedroom transportable workers accommodation building to be located and sited on 31 Powell Street, Morawa. The workers accommodation would be utilised for accommodation during periods of grain receipt, out loading and maintenance associated with the Morawa Cooperative Bulk Handling Limited (CBH) facility.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Author of report has no declaration of interest.

ATTACHMENTS

4. Location plan
5. Site plan and elevations of the transportable building
6. Planning application

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A planning application has been submitted by Cooperative Bulk Handling Limited for planning approval of a four bedroom transportable workers accommodation building to be located and sited on 31 Powell Street, Morawa.

The building is to be constructed of steel framing and joists, sandwich panel board walls and smartspan roof cladding.

The subject land currently has a CBH grain receipt, storage facility and workers accommodation building onsite. The existing accommodation building was constructed in 1971.

The applicant has advised that the proposed workers accommodation would provide extra accommodation on the CBH site during periods of grain receipt, out loading and maintenance associated with the CBH facility.

The subject land is zoned 'Industrial' under the Shire of Morawa Town Planning Scheme No 2.

OFFICER'S COMMENT

Consideration for this proposal is required as the proposed development is deemed transient workforce accommodation, a land use not permitted on Industrial zoned land under the Shire of Morawa Local Planning Scheme No. 2.

The subject land currently supports a non conforming land use under the Industrial zoning in the form of existing workforce accommodation that was established in 1971.

The Shire of Morawa Local Planning Scheme No 2 scheme text provides that:-

7.2 EXTENSION OF NON-CONFORMING USE

7.2.1 A person shall not alter or extend a non-conforming use or erect, alter or extend a building used in conjunction with a non-conforming use without first having applied for and obtained the planning approval of the Council under the Scheme and unless in conformity with any other provisions and requirements contained in the Scheme.

The erection of the new building on site conforms with the workers accommodation non conforming use and is located in close proximity to this established land use.

The Scheme text also refers to the following requirements related to transportable buildings:

5.7 TRANSPORTABLE AND SECONDHAND BUILDINGS

(c) A transportable or secondhand building may not be transported to and placed on a lot within the Scheme area and thereafter occupied as a residential dwelling (whether in whole or in part) except with the approval of Council and in accordance with any conditions contained in such approval.

(d) In considering whether or not to grant approval for a transportable or secondhand building, the Council shall have regard to:-

- (i) the appearance and external materials of the building, and any proposed alterations thereto;*
- (ii) the amenity of the locality;*
- (iii) the visual prominence of the site;*
- (iv) any proposed landscaping or screening of the site; and*
- (v) all applicable statutes, by-laws and regulations relating to dwelling houses applicable both to the transportable or*

secondhand building and the upon which it is to be located following transportation.

- (c) *In granting approval for a transportable or secondhand building, the Council may impose conditions including conditions which:-*
- (i) *require landscaping to be established within a specific time and thereafter maintained; and*
 - (ii) *require the applicant or owner to provide a bond or bank guarantee to Council as surety for the completion of the transportable or secondhand building to a standard of presentation acceptable to Council within a specific time frame. Should Council require the provision of a bond, such monies shall be deposited in an interest bearing Trust account and upon the satisfactory completion of the necessary works, such monies owing shall be refunded.'*

Similar transient workforce accommodation donga buildings have been approved by Council on the caravan park site and no requirement for landscaping or bond/bank guarantees have been imposed as a condition of planning approval.

The applicant has advised that the building will be connected to the existing power supply provided to the CBH site, existing reticulated water services and utilisation of a septic sewerage wastewater system.

It is considered appropriate to include an advice note advising the proponent that a building licence and approval of any proposed wastewater/septic sewerage system is required prior to the commencement of site works and location of the transportable building onsite.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

The subject land is surrounded by industrial (CBH owned), rural (CBH owned) and public open space reserve zoned land, no community consultation is considered necessary.

COUNCILLOR CONSULTATION

No previous discussion of the planning application information has been presented to Councillors.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

Planning and Development Act 2005
Shire of Morawa Local Planning Scheme No .2
Local Government Act 1996

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

No known policy implications.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

No known financial implications.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

No known Strategic Implications.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The proposed development accords with the non-conforming use requirements of the Shire of Morawa Town Planning Scheme No 2.

VOTING REQUIREMENT:

Simple majority.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

Council approve the planning application for a four bedroom transportable workers accommodation building to be located and sited on 31 Powell Street, Morawa.

and

The proponent being advised:

- of the need to apply for a Building Permit from the Shire of Morawa prior to the commencement of site works and location of the transportable building on site in accordance with the requirements of the Building Code of Australia and the Building Act 2011.
- of the need to apply for approval for any new wastewater/septic sewerage system associated with the development from the Shire of Morawa prior to the commencement of site works and location of the transportable workers accommodation building on site.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

**Moved: Cr D S Agar
Seconded: Cr M J Thornton**

Council approve the planning application for a four bedroom transportable workers accommodation building to be located and sited on 31 Powell Street, Morawa.

and

The proponent being advised:

- of the need to apply for a Building Permit from the Shire of Morawa prior to the commencement of site works and location of the transportable building on site in accordance with the requirements of the Building Code of Australia and the Building Act 2011.**
- of the need to apply for approval for any new wastewater/septic sewerage system associated with the development from the Shire of Morawa prior to the commencement of site works and location of the transportable workers accommodation building on site.**

CARRIED

6/0

7.2.6 Chief Executive Officer - Other

<i>Date of Meeting:</i>	15 May 2014
<i>Item No:</i>	7.2.6.1
<i>Subject:</i>	Strategic Plan Update and Progress Report
<i>Date & Author:</i>	5 May 2014 Sean Fletcher
<i>Responsible Officer:</i>	Chief Executive Officer
<i>Applicant/Proponent:</i>	Chief Executive Officer Sean Fletcher
<i>File Number:</i>	Various
<i>Previous minute/s & Reference:</i>	17 April 2014 (Last Update to Council) and Briefing Session 15 May 2014

SUMMARY

The Strategic Plan Update and Progress Report provides an update on the progress of matters under the Integrated Planning and Reporting Process including the:

- Shire of Morawa Strategic Community Plan 2012, and
- Corporate Business Plan.

Other updates are also provided regarding the informing strategies including:

- The Long Term Financial Plan;
- The Asset Management Plan; and
- The Workforce Plan.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

The author has no interest to declare in this report.

ATTACHMENTS

- 2013/14 Project Summary Report;
- Shire of Morawa April 2014 *Strategic Plan Update and Progress Report*.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Strategic Plan Update and Progress Report is provided to Council each month for information. The Strategic Community Plan was adopted 21 June 2012.

At this point in time, the Strategic Community Plan has some 109 actions listed:

Objective	Actions	Projects 2013/14	Programs 2013/14	Comment
1. A diverse, resilient and innovative economy	46	9	3	This objective is divided into two sub-objectives with nine key projects and three programs covering 27 of the 46 actions which are due for completion in 2013/14
2. Protect and enhance the natural environment	14	5	0	Five key projects covering 11 strategic actions are required to be completed for 2013/14
3. A community that is friendly, healthy and inclusive	26	5	0	Five key projects covering 17 of the 26 actions are due for completion for 2013/14
4. A connected community with strong leadership	23	3	1	Three key projects and one program area covering 18 actions are due for completion for 2013/14

Table One: Summary of Strategic Actions

Accordingly, the progress of the projects and program areas covering the strategic actions for 2013/14 are tracked within the Corporate Business Plan. This is because:

- This plan has the projects or actions the Shire is required to achieve over a four year period to meet the objectives listed in the Strategic Community Plan;
- This approach will also ensure there is a cross link with the Status Report where Council has made a decision regarding the projects listed in the Corporate Business Plan from time to time; and
- The Corporate Business Plan also acknowledges the key operating costs for each program area and the external stakeholders.

Informing Strategies

Other reports that need consideration in terms of their impact on the Strategic Community Plan include the following informing strategies:

Long Term Financial Plan

The long term financial plan is due for review this year.

Status

No change - The Long Term Financial Plan requires expansion to incorporate new out years. UHY Haines Norton will provide costs to do this for the 2014/15 Budget.

Asset Management Plan

To date the review of the Asset Management Plan (AMP) has seen three of the four key areas completed. The final area for completion is that regarding plant and equipment for inclusion.

Status

No change - The fair value report regarding plant and equipment needs to go to Morrison Low so that the AMP can be updated.

A meeting with Greenfields will occur next month to look at road infrastructure regarding fair value for 2014/15.

Romans II will also need updating regarding local road data.

Workforce Plan

The Workforce Plan is also monitored by the Department of Local Government and Communities. This requires assessment by staff by the end of March 2014.

Status

The CEO, DCEO and MFA commenced this review on 4 April 2014. A final review is now required.

Information Communication and Technology (ICT) Plan

Although the ICT is not a formal requirement, the Department of Local Government and Communities highly recommends that such a plan is developed and implemented and provides the appropriate framework for such a plan on its website.

It should be noted that the Shire of Morawa does not have such a plan.

Status

Development of such a plan is not required, but from a business continuity perspective it would be prudent to do so (in line with the Local Government Audit Regulations - Regulation 17).

Other Key Informing Strategies

Other key plans that impact on the Strategic Community Plan and the Corporate Business Plan include the Local Planning Scheme and Strategy, the Growth Plan, the Mid West Investment Plan and the North Midlands Economic Plan (proposed Mid West Blue Print). Generally, links are made back from the Corporate Business Plan to the applicable project within this plan.

Risk Management Framework and Compliance Plan

As per comments made in the February report, the CEO has now attended a briefing on the requirements of the *Local Government (Audit) Regulations – Regulation 17*. The Shire (CEO) by 31 December 2014 will need to have in place:

- A risk management policy;
- A risk management framework including processes, procedures and reporting; and
- A compliance plan

Status

Council resolved at the 20 February 2014 that the implementation of the requirements for Regulation 17 were forwarded for 2014/15 Budget consideration.

The author attended a briefing on Regulation 17 on 28 February 2014. LGIS representatives suggested that they could develop initial requirements on a regional basis. As a result, a proposal was received on 23 April outlining a joint project with the Shires of Mingenew, Carnamah, Coorow, Morawa & Perenjori at a cost of \$5,856 each. The author has accepted this quote and submitted for 14/15 budget consideration, although it may occur sooner.

OFFICER'S COMMENT

Strategic Community Plan

Further to the above, the success of the Strategic Community Plan (SCP) is based on the outcomes of the Corporate Business Plan and the key performance measures (KPIs) that will form part of the SCP from March 2014. The key performance measures show the desired trend to be achieved for each objective (Economic, Environment, Social and Governance. The key performance measures were inserted into the SCP at the Council meeting on 20 March 2014.

Corporate Business Plan

The Corporate Business Plan Report is provided each month. Accordingly, a summary report and full copy of the Corporate Business Plan report for April 2014 is attached.

In short, the progress of the Corporate Business Plan is summarised as follows:

Projects

Under the Corporate Business Plan, there are 35 projects that are monitored:

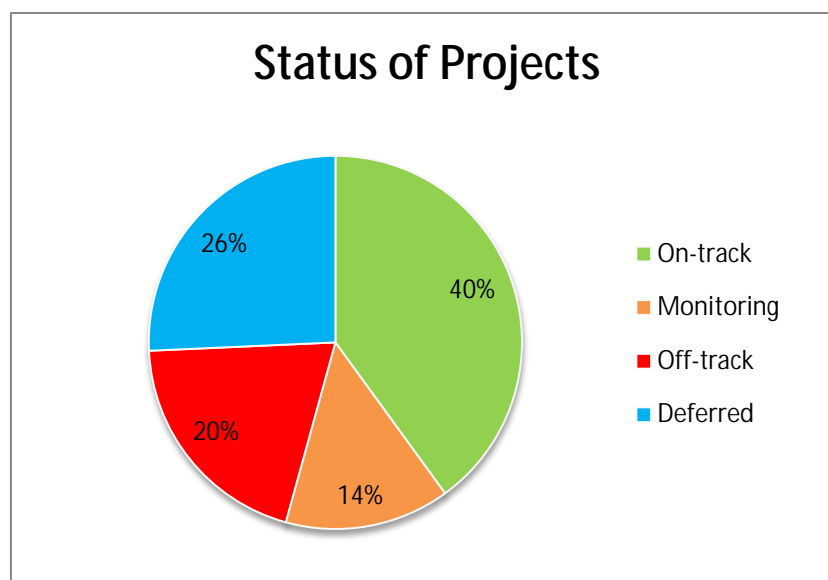


Chart 1: Breakdown on Status of Projects for 2013/14

The key things to note regarding Chart 1 - Breakdown on Status of Projects are:

Status Type	Status	Comment
Overall Completion	In terms of overall completion (i.e. the percentage of each project completed divided by the number of projects underway), this is 63.27%.	Overall completion in Mar 2014 was 58.50%.

On-track	There are 14 (40%) projects on track (1, 2, 3, 4, 12, 13, 14, 18, 19, 29, 32, 33, 34, & 35), up from 13 (37%) listed last month.	Although The Industry Attraction & Retention project is now on track, the intent of this project will require reassessment (Project 18)
Monitoring	Five (14%) projects are at the monitoring level (7, 20, 21, 27 & 31)	The five projects in monitoring mode are subject to initial delays and subsequent changes in circumstance. In particular: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Project 27 – the Mobile Black Spot project, was unsuccessful securing key funding from the MWIP and the Shire is now in the process of re-directing the \$1M in funding to another project (Airport Upgrade).
Off-track	In total there are seven projects off track (5, 8, 9, 10, 15, 26 and 30).	The number of projects off-track has improved from 9 to 7. The impacts on these projects include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Staff resourcing in terms of key roles is a constant issue regarding consistency and progressing of goals i.e. the long term vacancy of the CEO position (Project 9 lacked a project owner and Project 30 – Gateway Project is subject to further discussions with the key funding stakeholder); · The second key issue has been the constant waiting on the approval of funding or resources for key projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ State Cabinet – continual delays whilst it makes a decision (Project 26 - Town Centre Revitalisation and Freight Road Re-alignment). This should be completed by December 2014; ○ Scrapping of Commonwealth funding programs e.g. RADF5 (Project 5 - Town Hall project). The tender specification will now be developed during April 2014; ○ Changes to Royalties for Regions (CLGF) funding or not meeting acquittal requirements (Includes key funding regarding Project 3 regarding the Morawa Swimming Pool); ○ MWDC requirement to continually review business cases (Project 15) With the training centre, still waiting on final approvals; · Thirdly competing re-allocation of resources undermining the strategic focus e.g. ongoing maintenance of key assets not provided for. However, the Asset Management Plan should improve this over time.
Deferred	There are nine projects deferred due to fiscal constraints and other resourcing issues or because the priority has changed (6, 11, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24, 25 & 28);	These projects will require further review as part of the SCP review in June 2014.

It also may be prudent to seek a joint review with other shires in the region regarding the SCP, CBP and the informing strategies.

Programs

Under the Corporate Business Plan, there are four key program areas that are monitored:

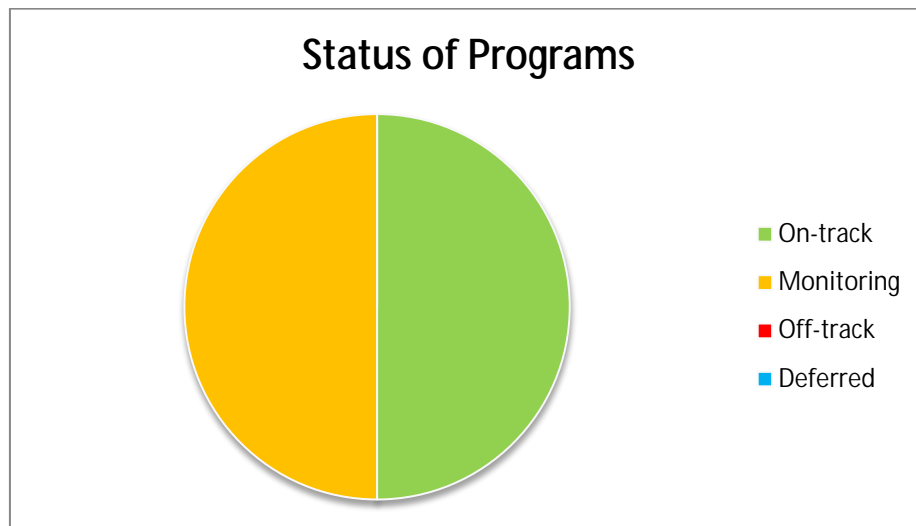


Chart 2: Breakdown on Status of Programs for 2013/14

Chart 2 indicates that there are two program areas on track i.e. the Sports Facilities and Programs (78%) and the Roads Program (78%). The program areas requiring monitoring are Ongoing Health Care Provision (50% completed) and Governance (55% completed). The programs on track are subject to key operational or day to day activities and are impacted by seasonal issues. The latter programs generally take time for the costs to come through.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

As per the Strategic Plan Update and Progress Report

COUNCILLOR CONSULTATION

As per previous reports to Council and the Information and CEO Briefing Sessions (Forums).

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996 Part 5 Annual Reports and Planning for the Future - Division 3 – Planning for the Future

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Not Applicable

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

As per the reporting requirements regarding the Strategic Community Plan and the Corporate Business Plan.

RISK MANAGEMENT

Under the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework, the Shire of Morawa is required to meet the compliance requirements. By meeting each of the key requirements regarding Integrated Planning and Reporting, the Shire will avoid further scrutiny and action by the Department of Local Government and Communities.

VOTING REQUIREMENT:

Simple Majority

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

Council accepts the Shire of Morawa May 2014 Strategic Plan Update and Progress Report submitted by the Chief Executive Officer.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr K P Stokes

Seconded: Cr D S Agar

Council accepts the Shire of Morawa May 2014 Strategic Plan Update and Progress Report submitted by the Chief Executive Officer.

**CARRIED
6/0**

6.25 pm Mr John Elliott, Project Officer Retired from the meeting.

<i>Date of Meeting:</i>	15 May 2014
<i>Item No:</i>	7.2.6.2
<i>Subject:</i>	Reallocation of Mobile Blackspot Coverage Funding
<i>Date & Author:</i>	8 May 2014 Sean Fletcher
<i>Responsible Officer:</i>	Chief Executive Officer
<i>Applicant/Proponent:</i>	Chief Executive Officer Sean Fletcher
<i>File Number:</i>	ADM 0616
<i>Previous minute/s &</i>	
<i>Reference:</i>	Council Briefing Session 8 April 2014

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's approval to request the re-allocation of the Mobile Blackspot Coverage Funding of \$1,000,000 allocated to the Shires of Mingenew, Morawa, Perenjori and Three Springs under the 2012/13 Country Local Government Fund Regional Component to the Upgrade of the Morawa Airport.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

The author has no interest to declare in this report.

ATTACHMENTS

Letter of Support Shire of Mingenew
Letter of Support Shire of Perenjori
Email Confirmation of Support Shire of Three Springs

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Shire of Morawa in conjunction with the Shire's of Mingenew, Perenjori and Three Springs for a regional grouping for the purpose of the regional component of the Country Local Government Fund (CLGF). In this capacity, the four shires have combined to develop a joint expression of interest to seek funding for the installation of seven mobile towers across the four shires.

The process commenced when representatives of the four Shires met on 13th August 2012 in Mingenew, under a workshop structure, to consider and sign off on agreed regional projects for the 2012/13 financial period. As a result, it was agreed that the following projects be committed for 2012/13:

1. North Midlands Solar Thermal Power Project (Morawa as lead LG) - \$1M
2. Depot Hill Crossing Project (Mingenew as lead LG) - \$333,111

At the time, Council understood that the Country Local Government Fund (CLGF) was part of the State Government Royalties for Regions (R4R) Program. In particular, each country Local Government was notionally allocated an annual amount which was split 50% for local projects and 50% for regional projects.

In the case of the Shire of Morawa it had an aggregated total CLGF allocation for 2012/13 of \$717,156 which meant \$358,578 was set aside for local projects and \$358,578 set aside for a regional project. The Council had at that point already notionally allocated its local component for 2012/13 for upgrade works to the Morawa Swimming Pool.

The total CLGF regional pool available for allocation in 2012/13 for the four local governments was \$1,333,111, and had been constant for the previous three years.

Subsequently, Council resolved the following at the March 2013 meeting of Council:

Moved: Cr K P Stokes

Seconded: Cr G R North

- 1. The Shire of Morawa will consider further sourcing and funding towards the cost of a proposed three (3) Megawatt (MW) Solar Thermal Power Project in Morawa after:**
 - a. completion of The Department of Regional Development and Lands funded feasibility study;**
 - b. obtaining legal advice;**
 - c. conducting due diligence to the satisfaction of the Shire of Morawa;**
 - d. compliance with s 3.59 of the Local Government Act 1995, and regs 7 to 10 of the Local Government (Functions and General) Regulations 1996; and**
 - e. agreements being reached between the Shire of Morawa and the participants in the project about the appropriate legal structure, whether Special Purpose Proprietary Company or otherwise, for the project.**

CARRIED

6/0

In a further item to Council on 18 April 2013, the then Acting CEO sort a consideration from Council regarding the re-allocation of the regional component of the Country Local Government Fund Regional allocation for the 2012/2013 financial year (Solar Thermal Project fund allocation) being the regional contribution towards improving Mobile phone communications in the Shires of Three Springs, Mingenew, Perenjori and Morawa.

In particular, the Acting CEO (Mr Williams) commented:

- He had advised Anne Finlay at the MWDC of the Shire of Morawa's wished to defer the \$1 million put aside for the Solar Thermal Project for 2012/2013 as this project was awaiting the outcomes of the feasibility study due for completion on January 2014;
- Ms Finlay advised Mr Williams that it was up to the Shire of Morawa to work with the Shires of Mingenew, Perenjori and Three Springs to decide on a new priority/project and have the business case for this completed by May 2013.
- Cr Chappel as President of Morawa had telephone conversations with Cr Treloar, Cr King and Cr Bagley as Presidents of Three Springs, Perenjori and Mingenew. As a result of the telephone meeting, the following priorities for immediate and deliverable regional projects were identified.
 - Cr Treloar: Aged Care Units and Black Spot Mobile Coverage.
 - Cr King: Black Spot Mobile Coverage;
 - Cr Bagley: Black Spot Mobile Coverage; and
 - Cr Chappel: Black Spot Mobile Coverage.
- The meeting concluded that if all Councillors confirmed with Cr Chappel their support for the Black Spot Mobile Coverage project to become the project that replaces the Solar Thermal Project for the \$1million for the year 2012/2013 the Shire of Morawa will begin the initial process of building the business case required by May 2013:

- The confirmation by email replaces a formal meeting to decide the priority.
- All four Councils will be involved in the decision on where is best for new Mobile Towers and all four Councils will benefit.
- Telstra will be engaged immediately to partner in this project.
- All four Council responded with the preferred option of Black Spot Mobile Coverage.
- Accordingly, an external consultant was engaged and liaised with Telstra and the Department of Regional Lands and Development to prepare business case for the funding to install the mobile phone towers in the region.

The Acting CEO concluded that further consideration was required to allocate future years funding towards adding an essential element into the overall North Midlands Solar Thermal Power Project if the feasibility study proves the project is viable. Accordingly, Council resolved:

Moved: Cr G R North
 Seconded: Cr D J Coaker

That the Morawa Shire Council supports the reallocation of the committed 2012/13 funding from the Country Local Government Fund Regional Component from:-

1. The North Midlands Solar Thermal Power Project (Morawa as lead LG) - \$1M to be reallocated to a region project between the Shires of Morawa, Mingenew, Three Springs and Perenjori to install mobile towers to improve mobile communication in the region.
2. Depot Hill Crossing Project (Mingenew as lead LG) - \$333,111 remains the same.

CARRIED 6/0

Further to the above resolution, Council was advised at a briefing session on 23 June 2013, that the estimated cost of providing the seven towers within the region was put at \$3.72m. As such the funding for this project would come from the Country Local Government Fund (CLGF) Regional Component (\$1M) the Mid West Development Commission Mid West Investment Plan and the individual shires.

In the case of the Shire of Morawa, the minimum contribution was set at \$125,000 with a separate cost component in addition to the cost of the project to connect the two Morawa tower locations being Merkanooka and Morawa East (The cost to do the connection was put into the 2013/14 Budget of \$250,000).

The Business Case seeking \$1M from the CLGF Regional Component was completed and sent to the Department of Regional Development by 31st May 2013.

At the Briefing Session on 23 July 2013, the then Acting CEO advised Council that it was important to note that the \$250,000 commitment to connect power to the two communication towers was to be drawn from the Futures Reserve Fund. The funds would only be called upon if both towers are included in the final approval conditions of the project.

In the interim, the Shire of Morawa continued with the lead on the project and assisted with the development of the expression of interest to the MWDC seeking the balance of funding in the order of \$2.2M.

The Department of Regional Development (DRD) confirmed on 26 February 2014 that the \$1M from the CLGF-R component was approved by Cabinet and

issued the FAA at the same time. Minister Redman made the official announcement regarding the funding approval on 7 March 2014.

The author then advised DRD (Meegan Babe – Project Officer) on 6 March 2014 that the project commencement date and access to funding was subject to endorsement by the Mid-West Development Commission (MWDC) Board re Mid-West Investment Plan (MWIP) funding, which in turn was still subject to final approval by Cabinet.

The MWDC Board met on 28 February 2014 to discuss the project. The author asked for feedback on 6 March 2014 regarding the outcome of the meeting.

In an email to councillors on 19 March 2014, the author advised that the MWDC Board did not support the project. In short, the letter from the MWDC stated that funding from the Mid West Investment Plan to the seven sites is not supported (worth about \$2.2M) as:

- The MWDC is continuing to work with the State Government regarding the implementation of RMCP Round 2 and that three of the seven sites have been included on the initial draft list of priority sites for the Mid West (Arrino, Latham and Yandanooka);
- Suggests the shires fund the other four towers themselves (for Morawa this means funding both towers – Merkanooka and Morawa East).

The letter was also sent to the participating member shire presidents.

At the briefing sessions with councillors on 20 March 2014 the following was discussed:

- In Morawa's case, there is not the capacity to fund the two towers (the expected cost is in the order of \$2M). As a result, it is highly doubtful that this project will now proceed and leaves the recently awarded \$1M from the County Local Government Fund (CLGF) Regional component to this project at a loose end;
- Reallocate the \$1M CLGF – Regional component funding to another Morawa project that is regional in nature. In essence, the Shire of Morawa is entitled to the total allocation of this funding to a regional project due to the other shires already benefitting from earlier allocations out of the CLGF – Regional component;
- The Shire President advised that she has spoken to Shane Love MLA on 19 March 2014 to advocate further on this matter re the MWDC and funding from the MWIP. The author also then provided supporting information to Mr Love;
- In response, councillors suggested that the \$1M CLGF – R was allocated to the Morawa Airport project. The Shire President indicated that the other shires will need to agree.

On 1 April 2014 Megan from DRD contacted the author regarding whether the funds will be spent this financial year or next financial year. The author commented that the funds will be spent next financial year. Accordingly, Megan advised that the funds will be available from 1 July 2014 once the Shire needs this funding.

At a meeting of the shire CEO's on 10 April 2014, the author advised that the Shire of Morawa is seeking the possibility of reallocating the \$1M CLGF – R funds to a Morawa project that is of regional benefit i.e. The Upgrade of the Morawa Airport. The CEOs responded that this was appropriate and that they would seek confirmation from their respective council's subject to the author providing further information on the scope of the project and letters of support from the mining companies in the region and the Royal Flying Doctor Service. The author subsequently provided this information.

As a result, the Shire has now received letters of support received from the Shires of Mingenew on 29 April 2014 and the Shire's of Perenjori on 7 May 2014. The author also received an email on 8 May 2014 confirming that the Shire of Three Springs supports

The author has also spoken further to DRD on this matter, who has advised that the approval process will include:

- A request to the Department of Regional Development in the first instance;
- Consideration by State Cabinet of the request to reallocate the \$1M funding.

Other Information

The CEO and Project Officer have also made a submission to the Commonwealth Government's \$100M Mobile Coverage Programme and have listed Merkanooka and Morawa East High as areas requiring a base station. The President based on comments made by some councillors at the Council meeting on 20 February 2014 suggested they contact the CEO on other potential locations. The CEO also asked for this information in the Councillor update issued on 28 February 2014 including whether Merkanooka North and Canna/Gutha North East was suitable.

Local MP Melissa Price (Commonwealth) advised that she invited local Chief Fire Control Officers to a meeting with Paul Fletcher (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Communications) on 2 April 2014 regarding the Commonwealth program. The author in response had the project officer forward her office the Shire's submission to this program to ensure Mr Fletcher also had this information available to him.

OFFICER'S COMMENT

In a detailed report to Council at the April meeting regarding a proposal to reallocate the Solar Thermal Feasibility Study funding identified the key reasons to support the upgrade of the Morawa Airport.

In line with this report, it is still the author's view that the \$1M funding should be allocated to the upgrading of the Morawa Airport for a number of reasons:

- Under the Corporate Business Plan, the upgrading of the airport priority is a high priority. Also, under the North Midlands Economic Development Strategy, the upgrading of the airport would appear to have greater significance;
- Further, the upgrading of the airport will mean that it can:
 - Accommodate all of the access requirements regarding the Royal Flying Doctor Service;
 - Serve as an alternate landing site for the mining industry in the area. The Shire President and CEO had met previously with Karara Mining Ltd representatives on 9 January 2014 who confirmed that although it did not have plans to use the Morawa Airport permanently, Karara would still need access to it from time to time and also in cases of an emergency. (Note: Karara did say that in three years time, if the same problems did occur with its airstrip, it would weigh up its options re the possible ongoing use of the Morawa Airport);
 - Allow access to water bombers and other aircraft involved in the fighting of bushfires;

- Other uses including increased recreational flying, the possibility of recreational flight training, “airpark” type accommodation and even form part of the Shire’s heritage;

With regard to the Draft Western Australian State Aviation Strategy, the current proposals include the Government taking steps to:

- Directly engage with Perth Airport and major regional airports in relation to forecasts of aviation activity, particularly in relation to master planning;
- Assist in the timely development of infrastructure at Perth airport including a new parallel runway (“the third runway”);
- Improve infrastructure planning and development at local government owned regional airports;
- Encourage private sector investment in, and management of, regional airports to improve their effectiveness and efficiency;
- Foster the development of tourism through improved aviation services; and
- Encourage competition on intrastate air routes and seek to reduce the high cost of intrastate airfares.

As such, the completion of the strategy is due for completion shortly. A key part of the process was the review of the Regional Airports Development Scheme (RADS). As such the RADS priority will now be given to aviation related infrastructure that provides clearly defined community benefits and where the project is not capable of being funded through other means.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Nil

COUNCILLOR CONSULTATION

Council Briefing Session 8 April 2014.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

Nil

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Not Applicable

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Mobile Phone Tower Project - Morawa

- Merkanooka (\$680,000):
 - \$ 62,500 Shire Municipal Fund
 - \$ 83,333 CLGF- Regional Component
 - \$534,167 MWIP
- Morawa East High (\$942,000):
 - \$62,500 Shire Municipal Fund
 - \$500,000 CLGF – Regional Component
 - § \$379,500 MWIP

The above shows that without the MWIP funds of \$913,667 and \$250,000 for the power connection the Shire is not in the position to continue with the installation of the two towers on its own.

Upgrading of Morawa Airport

The works identified regarding the upgrading of the Morawa Airport include:

- Sealing of the runway and apron;
- Lighting;
- Improving the “terminal” building; and
- Other works (e.g. airpark, water bomber suitability, museum) subject to the completion of the Airport Master Plan.

The expected costs of these works (excluding the other works component) are between \$1.8M and \$2.4M based on advice received from Greenfield Technical Services and Airport Management Services.

Funding opportunities include:

MWIP: \$ 900,000

SuperTowns' Reallocation: \$ 500,000 (Solar Thermal Feasibility Study Funding)

CLGF Regional Component: \$1,000,000

Note: The above shows that it is possible to achieve the upgrading of the Morawa Airport with the re-allocation of the solar thermal project feasibility funding and the CLGF Regional Component. The Shire is also able to apply to the Regional Airport Development Scheme (RADS) for other funding that may be required on a 50/50 basis.

The ongoing cost would be subject to the requirements of the Shire's Asset Management Plan in terms of whole of life costs and affordability.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

Not Applicable

RISK MANAGEMENT

Not Applicable

VOTING REQUIREMENT:

Simple Majority

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

Council authorises the Chief Executive Officer to:

1. Write to the Director General of the Department of Regional Development requesting the reallocation of the 2012/13 Country Local Government Fund Regional component of funding of \$1,000,000 for the Shires of Mingenew, Morawa, Perenjori and Three Springs from the Mobile Blackspot Coverage Project to the Upgrade of the Morawa Airport Project including the justification for doing so:
 - a. The upgrade of the Morawa Airport is a high priority project under the Corporate Business Plan 2012 – 2014 and other key plans for the economic development of the Mid West Region;
 - b. The level of aviation infrastructure required will provide clearly defined community benefits to Morawa and others in the region (e.g. better access to the RFDS, water access point for water bombers); and

- c. That this request to reallocate the \$1M in funding is supported by the Shires of Mingenew, Perenjori and Three Springs.
2. Keep the Shires of Mingenew, Perenjori and Three Springs apprised of the request to reallocate the \$1M in funding.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr K P Stokes

Seconded: Cr D B Collins

Council authorises the Chief Executive Officer to:

1. **Write to the Director General of the Department of Regional Development requesting the reallocation of the 2012/13 Country Local Government Fund Regional component of funding of \$1,000,000 for the Shires of Mingenew, Morawa, Perenjori and Three Springs from the Mobile Blackspot Coverage Project to the Upgrade of the Morawa Airport Project including the justification for doing so:**
 - a. **The upgrade of the Morawa Airport is a high priority project under the Corporate Business Plan 2012 – 2014 and other key plans for the economic development of the Mid West Region;**
 - b. **The level of aviation infrastructure required will provide clearly defined community benefits to Morawa and others in the region (e.g. better access to the RFDS, water access point for water bombers); and**
 - c. **That this request to reallocate the \$1M in funding is supported by the Shires of Mingenew, Perenjori and Three Springs.**
2. **Keep the Shires of Mingenew, Perenjori and Three Springs apprised of the request to reallocate the \$1M in funding.**

CARRIED

6/0

<i>Date of Meeting:</i>	15 May 2014
<i>Item No:</i>	7.2.6.3
<i>Subject:</i>	Commission of Audit Report Impact on Local Government
<i>Date & Author:</i>	14 May 2014 Sean Fletcher
<i>Responsible Officer:</i>	Chief Executive Officer
<i>Applicant/Proponent:</i>	Chief Executive Officer Sean Fletcher
<i>File Number:</i>	ADM 0045, ADM 0142 (Main Documents), ADM 0437, ADM 0533
<i>Previous minute/s & Reference:</i>	Nil

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's approval to address the matters raised in the Commission of Audit's recommendations regarding the removal of key Commonwealth funding to Local Government through:

- The Shire opposing recommendations 5 and 22 and opposing the withdrawal of funding to Regional Development Australia Committees;
- Requesting the Northern Country Zone to consider the Shire's position on opposing recommendations 5 and 22, including what the issues are;
- Authorising the Shire President (and the CEO) to participate in a meeting of delegates of the Northern Country Zone with the Hon. Melissa Price MP regarding the Shire's opposition to the Commission of Audit outcomes and specific concerns regarding the impact that the withdrawal of key Commonwealth funding will have on Local Government;
- Authorising the Shire President (and the CEO) to attend a meeting with the Deputy Prime Minister to discuss the same; and
- For the CEO in conjunction with other CEOs to submit a joint motion to the WALGA AGM by 9 June 2014 regarding the concerns raised in this report.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Nil

ATTACHMENTS

1. Links to the Deputy Prime Minister's Speech, the Commission of Audit Report and the Budget 2014/15 are provided in the body of this report.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Shire President of Morawa (and Chair of the WALGA Northern Country Zone) Cr Karen Chappel advised both councillors and members of the Zone by email on 11 May 2014 of a report on the Australian Local Governments of Australia (ALGA) website regarding the impact of the Commonwealth Government's Commission of Audit on Local Government. In particular, the report highlights:

Commonwealth funding for local councils would end under the recommendations of the Commission of Audit Report released on Thursday 1 May.

The Federal Budget, to be handed down in 12 days time is expected to pick up some of the 86 recommendations, with others to be adopted in coming months.

The recommendations seek to return the Budget to surplus through substantial savings and would also see the Commonwealth Government give up \$25 billion of income tax revenue and end its involvement in an enormous range of areas and pass responsibility to the states.

Of major concern to ALGA are the recommendations in Volume 2 (recommendations five and 22) that the Commonwealth end its funding for local government, including the Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs) program and the Roads to Recovery (R2R) program. The Report also recommends an end to Regional Development Australia Committees and that the Commonwealth leaves regional development issues to the state and local government.

The Federal Government provides a total of \$2.2 billion per annum to councils across the country through the FAGs program. It is the Government's cornerstone program for local communities. The end of the program, which was put in place almost 40 years ago, would have a catastrophic impact on the level of local infrastructure and services in every local community.

The Audit Commission has proposed that the FAGs would no longer be necessary as sufficient revenue would be available to state governments which could then determine whether any funds are passed on to councils. Given the priorities which state governments face in areas such as health, education and public transport, individual councils may well find it challenging in securing sufficient funds to meet local infrastructure and service needs.

The end of the R2R program, which both major parties had promised to extend to 30 June 2019, would strip \$350 million a year in road funding from local communities with potentially devastating consequences for productivity, road safety and general access, particularly in regional communities. The promised Bridges Renewal Program is also at risk under the Report's recommendations.

Cr Chappel's initial comments includes that she thought this would be a matter of discussion at the ALGA conference with members from WA attending and it was something that "we will need to ensure comes through the LGs to the Zone so that the State has a strong position against these recommendations".

Councillor Collins responded to the President's email "...very interesting indeed".

Further to Cr Chappel's email, Ian Carpenter the Mayor of the City of Greater Geraldton responded in an email on 12 May 2014 that this is a very serious matter, and although the Commission of Audit was advice to the Government, had the potential to be adopted. Mayor Carpenter then went on to explain the impact that implementing recommendations 5 and 22 would have on local governments. Mayor Carpenter also suggested that perhaps the Zone asks WALGA to seek advice from zones by email who in turn could seek the advice of zone LGs by email too and not to wait for the next NCZ meeting. He also intends raising this matter through the Regional Capitals Alliance.

In addition to the above, Mayor Carpenter provided a copy of an email he had sent on the 9 May 2014 to Mayor Troy Pickard, the President of WALGA stating "Given the serious ramifications the loss of FAGS and R2R funding would case

to all LG's and small LG's in particular, will WALGA be taking this matter up as an immediate priority? I'm sure most would not wish to have this funding in the hands of the state".

A number of CEO's also responded to Cr Chappel's email on 12 May 2014 including the CEO of Perenjori and CEO of Mingenew that they were happy to assist and the CEO of Morawa with a response from the CEO of Carnamah on the current and previous Federal Governments' position on funding to Local Government.

President Collingwood from the Shire of Chapman Valley also advised by email on 13 May 2014 that his Shire would seriously consider attending the ALGA conference regarding this matter.

OFFICER'S COMMENT

The key principle regarding recommendations 5 and 22 is that the Commonwealth should give the States access to the Commonwealth Personal Income Tax base and that the Commonwealth lower its Personal Income Tax rates to allow room for the States to levy their own income tax. The impact of lower revenue for the Commonwealth would be offset through an equal reduction in funding in other financial assistance payments to the States.

The premise is that this in turn would see the States make greater use over the longer term of access to the Personal Income Tax base to fund their expenditure responsibilities including support for local government (page 109 Phase Two Commission of Audit Report) <http://www.ncoa.gov.au/>.

Roads to Recovery Funding (R2R)

The Deputy Prime Minister (Warren Truss) and in his capacity as the Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development (this portfolio is also responsible for local government) gave a speech to the National Press Club on 30 April 2014 regarding infrastructure and regional development. A copy of the speech can be found on his website (<http://www.warrentruss.com/speeches.php?id=156>).

In this speech he did advise that the Government has renewed its commitment to Roads to Recovery and locked this in at \$1.75 billion over the next five years. Also, \$300m has been set aside for the Black Spot (road) Programme and also \$300m for the Bridges Renewal programme.

In regards to Roads to Recovery, the Deputy Prime Minister points out in his speech:

- Labor and the Greens are the ones playing games with this funding. To date, they have opposed legislation regarding the next lot of R2R. He goes on to say, if the legislation is not passed by the Senate by 30 June, 2014 – then the programme will be road kill. Please note that the author has not had time to substantiate that this is the case regarding the opposition parties. However, the Bill to amend the *Nation Building Program (National Land Transport) Act 2009* to provide for the extension of R2R is currently before Parliament;
- That of the 17 seats that gave the coalition government at the last election, 11 of these came from the regional areas. This is a very pointed comment, and may well be aimed not only at the opposition parties, but the coalition partner as well.

It should also be remembered that many politicians on both sides of the political fence have time and time again at the National Roads Congress and other forums espoused long and hard the virtues of the Roads to Recovery

Programme including the minimal cost involved to administer the program (2.5 FTEs).

The Deputy Prime Minister then went on to announce a Community Development Program worth \$342m and the rolling out next year of \$1 billion National Stronger Regions Fund. The assumption here is that either Regional Development Australia (RDA) or equivalent would manage this funding.

Further to the above, in the 2014/15 Commonwealth Budget handed down on 13 May 2014, it clearly shows the Government's commitment to Roads to Recovery, including the Forward Estimates under Programme 1.1 Infrastructure Investment (Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development).

Financial Assistance Grants (FAGS)

The Financial Assistance Grants (FAGS) is key funding that the Commonwealth provides to Local Government across Australia. The funding provided is determined by the Commonwealth Grants Commission under the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995* using what is referred to horizontal fiscal equalisation and allocated to the States/Territories for redistribution to the local governments.

The former Prime Minister, Gough Whitlam was the architect of FAGS and had it implemented as a key funding program because he was concerned with how the States and Territories were handling Local Government from a funding view point.

The Howard Government was also very active in trying to find ways to get funding in a more streamlined fashion to Local Government, hence the establishment of the Roads to Recovery Programme and the support for VROC's (as a less formalised way of getting money to bypass the States etc. Some VROC's have/were successful and others were not).

It should also be noted, that from a WA perspective, the calculation for the allocation of the CLGF is based on the same methodology used for FAGS. So, the methodology is quite sound.

In the 2014/15 Commonwealth Budget handed down on 13 May 2014, it clearly shows the Government's commitment to FAGS, including the Forward Estimates under Programme 3.2 Local Government (Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development). This funding in effect is frozen for three years before indexing is resumed (<http://www.budget.gov.au>).

In hand with the above, there has been the discussion, and support, since 2008 for the financial recognition of Local Government within the Constitution. This is so that FAGS, R2R and other programs can continue to Local Government and has been clearly supported on both sides of the political fence at the Commonwealth level.

The author also notes that both the Treasurer and the Prime Minister have said on a number of recent news reports that the Commission of Audit is just that, and many of the recommendations, politically – would be hard to implement.

Regional Development Australia Committees

With regard to the future of the Regional Development Australia committees (page 91 Phase Two Commission of Audit Report), the author is not sure what this means at this point. It may mean that the Government will leave RDAs alone or that Infrastructure Australia may take over the role of regional development. The other matter to consider is that a number of RDAs in Western Australia work closely with the Regional Development Commissions to secure key outcomes.

Conclusion

As such, it is quite right to say that many local governments will suffer, and indeed will not survive without the current level of Commonwealth funding

provided through FAGS and Roads to Recovery, including a number with the Northern Country Zone.

Despite the assurances of the Treasurer and the Prime Minister regarding the outcomes of the Commission of Audit, it would be appropriate, as a number of respondents to Cr Chappel's email have indicated, to seek a resolution on this matter regarding Local Government, so that the proposal regarding the removal of key Commonwealth funding does not have the opportunity to become government policy.

Accordingly, a meeting of key personnel from within the Northern Country Zone with the Hon. Melissa Price as the local member is a must, but also a meeting in due course with the Hon. Warren Truss and the Hon. Jamie Briggs (the Assistant Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development), and perhaps even the Prime Minister (as the Infrastructure Prime Minister!).

Although this issue regarding concerns with the Commission of Audit recommendations to remove key local government funding would have been appropriate for debate at this year's ALGA Conference, motions for consideration were due on Thursday 17 April 2014. However, the Shire President has now confirmed in an email to the Zone on the afternoon of 14 May 2014 that the WALGA President has assured her that this matter will now be tabled as an urgent item at the National General Assembly (ALGA Conference).

However, this matter can still be addressed at the State Conference. Local governments must submit motions by close of business Monday 9 June 2014. It would also be appropriate to advise the Northern Country Zone of the same.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Nil

COUNCILLOR CONSULTATION

As per the information provided in the section regarding the background to this matter.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

The Australian Constitution: The Commission of Audit including recommendations 5 and 22 attempt to redefine the role of the Commonwealth, States/Territories and Local Government.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The withdrawal of key Commonwealth funding will have a substantial impact on both the financial health of the Shire.

Commonwealth Funding

Financial Assistance Grants

The Commonwealth, as a result of the 14/15 Budget has removed the previous strategy of bringing forward 50% of the FAGS payment that was in effect for 2013/14 (and previous years).

Please note that for 2013/14 the Shire will receive a total of \$770,201. However, with the restoration of FAGS during 2014/15 to the normal funding allocation process, the Shire should receive a minimum of at least \$1,540,402.

Roads to Recovery

The Shire/City currently receives on average \$269,795 per annum.

Other Shire Revenue

In comparison to the funding received through FAGS, the Shire's other key revenue sources (excluding SuperTowns and key State Grants e.g. CLGF, CSRFF, MWIP – Royalties for Regions) for 2013/14 include:

Rates:	\$1,408,209
Reserve Interest:	\$ 300,000
Waste Fees & Charges:	\$ 624,163
Regional Road Group	\$ 495,534
Main Roads Other:	\$ 99,794
Mid West Service Agreement:	\$ 205,228
Fees and Charges:	\$ 935,769
Transfers from Reserve	\$ 572,630 (Excludes quarantine of key State grants)

Costs to Attend Meetings

2013/14 Budget

Account 04107 currently has an allocation of \$20,500 for Members Conference Expenses. Costs incurred to date are \$8,754.09, leaving a balance of \$11,745.91.

No major further costs are expected to occur, other than perhaps the payment for attending Local Government Week (6 August 2014) of \$6,000 (registration fees and accommodation) which may be incurred prior to the 30 June 2014. This means that there are sufficient funds for the Shire President to attend a meeting with the Deputy Prime Minister if this was held prior to the holding of the ALGA Conference commencing 15 June 2014. The costs for the ALGA conference would occur in 2014/15.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

In general terms, many outcomes required under the Strategic Community Plan (SCP) and the Corporate Business Plan would be affected.

Under the Civic Leadership Outcome 4.4 of the SCP there is a direct strategy that requires the Shire to have improved regional partnerships with government and industry.

Under the Corporate Business Plan, Project 34 requires the Shire to have a leadership and advocacy role. In particular, the Shire is to continue to lobby and advocate for key government and infrastructure services, solve community issues and act on opportunities.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The risk of not responding to the Commission of Audit is extreme. Strategies to mitigate the risk of losing key Commonwealth funding would mean the substantial reduction in key services.

A key strategy to mitigate this risk is to lobby the Commonwealth Government to ensure that recommendations 5 and 22 do not become Government policy.

VOTING REQUIREMENT:

Simple Majority

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

1. The Shire of Morawa opposes recommendations 5 and 22 (and that regarding the Regional Development Australia Committees) of the Commission of Audit report.
2. Council authorises the Shire President Cr Chappell and the CEO to participate in a meeting of delegates of the Northern Country Zone with the local member, the Hon. Melissa Price MP as soon as possible advising of the opposition to recommendations 5 and 22 of the Commission of Audit report and to stress specific concerns regarding these recommendations including:
 - a. The catastrophic impact that the removal of key Commonwealth funding regarding the Financial Assistance Grants (FAGS) and the Roads to Recovery Programme, will have on many local governments along with those within the Northern Country Zone.
 - b. The impact that the removal of the Bridges to Renewal Programme and the Black Spot Programme will have by causing further delays to the replacement and upgrading of key infrastructure designed to improve road user access and safety.
 - c. The belief that the State(s) will not pass on the same level of funding currently received through FAGS and the Roads to Recovery Programme.
 - d. Grave concerns regarding the removal of funding for Regional Development Australia (RDA) committees will have on key funding provided to the regions, and the collaborative efforts currently in place between the RDAs and the State's Regional Development Commissions.
3. Council authorises the Shire President and the CEO to participate in a meeting of delegates of the Northern Country Zone with the Deputy Prime Minister the Hon. Warren Truss the Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development regarding advising of the opposition to recommendations 5

and 22 of the Commission of Audit report and to stress specific concerns regarding these recommendations as raised in Point 2a, b, c and d:

- a. At a suitable time during the ALGA Conference 15 June 2014 – 18 June 2014; or
 - b. As soon as possible either in Canberra or other suitable location.
4. Council authorises the CEO to submit a joint notice of motion in conjunction with the other CEOs made up from the member local governments of the Northern Country Zone to the WALGA State AGM advising of the opposition to recommendations 5 and 22 of the Commission of Audit report and to stress specific concerns regarding these recommendations as raised in Point 2a, b, c and d by 9 June 2014.
 5. The Shire of Morawa requests the Northern Country Zone consider its opposition to recommendations 5 and 22 made in the Commission of Audit report including specific concerns regarding these recommendations raised in Point 2a, b, c and d prior to 9 June 2014 and that the outcome is submitted to WALGA for inclusion at the 2014 AGM.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr K P Stokes

Seconded: Cr D B Collins

1. **The Shire of Morawa opposes recommendations 5 and 22 (and that regarding the Regional Development Australia Committees) of the Commission of Audit report.**
2. **Council authorises the Shire President Cr Chappell and the CEO to participate in a meeting of delegates of the Northern Country Zone with the local member, the Hon. Melissa Price MP as soon as possible advising of the opposition to recommendations 5 and 22 of the Commission of Audit report and to stress specific concerns regarding these recommendations including:**
 - a. **The catastrophic impact that the removal of key Commonwealth funding regarding the Financial Assistance Grants (FAGS) and the Roads to Recovery Programme, will have on many local governments along with those within the Northern Country Zone.**
 - b. **The impact that the removal of the Bridges to Renewal Programme and the Black Spot Programme will have by causing further delays to the replacement and upgrading of key infrastructure designed to improve road user access and safety.**
 - c. **The belief that the State(s) will not pass on the same level of funding currently received through FAGS and the Roads to Recovery Programme.**
 - d. **Grave concerns regarding the removal of funding for Regional Development Australia (RDA) committees will have on key**

funding provided to the regions, and the collaborative efforts currently in place between the RDAs and the State's Regional Development Commissions.

3. Council authorises the Shire President and the CEO to participate in a meeting of delegates of the Northern Country Zone with the Deputy Prime Minister the Hon. Warren Truss the Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development regarding advising of the opposition to recommendations 5 and 22 of the Commission of Audit report and to stress specific concerns regarding these recommendations as raised in Point 2a, b, c and d:
 - a. At a suitable time during the ALGA Conference 15 June 2014 – 18 June 2014; or
 - b. As soon as possible either in Canberra or other suitable location.
4. Council authorises the CEO to submit a joint notice of motion in conjunction with the other CEOs made up from the member local governments of the Northern Country Zone to the WALGA State AGM advising of the opposition to recommendations 5 and 22 of the Commission of Audit report and to stress specific concerns regarding these recommendations as raised in Point 2a, b, c and d by 9 June 2014.
5. The Shire of Morawa requests the Northern Country Zone consider its opposition to recommendations 5 and 22 made in the Commission of Audit report including specific concerns regarding these recommendations raised in Point 2a, b, c and d prior to 9 June 2014 and that the outcome is submitted to WALGA for inclusion at the 2014 AGM.

CARRIED
6/0

7.2.6.4 Correspondence

Nil

7.2.6.5 Information Bulletin

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr K P Stokes

Seconded: Cr D B Collins

That Information Bulletin submitted for the 15th May 2014, Ordinary Meeting be received.

CARRIED

- 8. **New Business of an Urgent Nature**
Moved: Cr K P Stokes
Seconded: Cr D B Collins

That the Late Agenda Item 7.2.6.3 pertaining to the Commission of Audit Report Impact on Local Government be brought to the Table as New Business of an Urgent Nature.

CARRIED
6/0

- 9. **Applications for Leave of Absence**

Nil

- 10. **Motions of Which Previous Notice Has Been Given**

Nil

- 11. **Questions from Members without Notice**

Nil

- 12. **Meeting Closed**

12.1 Matters for which the meeting may be closed

12.2 Public reading of resolutions that may be made public

- 13. **Closure**

Meeting was closed at 6.25 pm

.....**Presiding Person**

- 14. **Next Meeting**

The next Ordinary Meeting of Council is scheduled for 19th June 2014