



MINUTES

Ordinary Council Meeting

Held in Council Chambers
Corner King & Barrack Street's Merredin
Tuesday 21 July 2020
Commencing 4.00pm



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Common Acronyms Used in this Document	
T/CEO	Temporary Chief Executive Officer
CBP	Corporate Business Plan
CEACA	Central East Aged Care Alliance
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CSP	Community Strategic Plan
CWVC	Central Wheatbelt Visitors Centre
DCEO	Deputy CEO
EA	Executive Assistant to CEO
EMCS	Executive Manager of Corporate Services
EMDS	Executive Manager of Development Services
EMES	Executive Manager of Engineering Services
GECZ	Great Eastern Country Zone
LGIS	Local Government Insurance Services
LPS	Local Planning Scheme
MCO	Media & Communications Officer
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MRCLC	Merredin Regional Community and Leisure Centre
SRP	Strategic Resource Plan
WALGA	Western Australian Local Government Association
WEROC	Wheatbelt East Regional Organisation of Councils

Shire of Merredin
Ordinary Council Meeting
4.00pm Tuesday 21 July 2020



1. Official Opening

The President acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet today and paid her respects to the Elders past and present. The President welcomed those in attendance and declared the meeting open at 4:07pm.

2. Record of Attendance / Apologies and Leave of Absence

Councillors:

Cr JR Flockart	Shire President
Cr MD Willis	Deputy Shire President
Cr RA Billing	
Cr LN Boehme	
Cr AR Butler	
Cr RM Manning	
Cr MJ McKenzie	
Cr PR Patroni	
Cr PM Van Der Merwe	

Staff

M Dacombe	T/CEO
M Ivanetz	EA to CEO
A Prnich	DCEO
C Brown	EMCS
P Zenni	EMDS

Members of the Public: B Anderson

Apologies: Nil

Approved Leave of Absence: Nil

3. Public Question Time

Members of the public may submit questions up to 2pm on the day of the meeting by emailing ea@merredin.wa.gov.au

Mr Brad Anderson of Merredin attended to ask the following question.

Question: Merredin Car Show – Would we like to see this event in Merredin? Would the Shire of Merredin be happy for a show like this to happen?

Answer: The Shire of Merredin has supported this event from the initial stages, a full event plan was unable to be provided to the Shire on request.

The Shire is very supportive of the opportunity of this event going forward in the future, full documentation would need to be provided to the Shire of Merredin 12 weeks in advance to allow for processing.

The T/CEO is happy for the organisers of this event to contact him directly.

4. Disclosure of Interest

Councillor Manning declared an Impartiality Interest in Item 12.1.

5. Applications for Leave of Absence

Nil

6. Petitions and Presentations

Nil

7. Confirmation of Minutes of the Previous Meetings

7.1 Ordinary Council Meeting held on 16 June 2020

[Attachment 7.1A](#)

Voting Requirements



Simple Majority



Absolute Majority

Officer's Recommendation / Resolution

Moved: Cr Patroni

Seconded: Cr Boehme

82572 That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 16 June 2020 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

CARRIED 9/0

8. Announcements by the Person Presiding without discussion

The President acknowledged the terrific participation of Councillors and staff throughout the current Strategic Planning community engagement process. She also acknowledged the presence and participation of Hon Melissa Price, Federal Minister of Defence Industry, Member of Durack at the recent Shire of Merredin community engagement with Merredin Business Stakeholders.

10. Receipt of Minutes of Committee Meetings

- 10.1 Merrittville Retirement Village Management Committee Meeting held on 22 June 2020
[Attachment 10.1A](#)
- 10.2 Shire of Merredin Bushfire Brigades Annual General Meeting held on 24 June 2020
[Attachment 10.2A](#)
- 10.3 Shire of Merredin Local Emergency Management Committee Meeting held on 25 June 2020
[Attachment 10.3A](#)
- 10.4 Great Eastern Country Zone Meeting held on 25 June 2020
[Attachment 10.4A](#)
- 10.5 State Council Meeting held on 1 July 2020
[Attachment 10.5A](#)

Voting Requirements



Simple Majority



Absolute Majority

Officers' Recommendation / Resolution

Moved: Cr Willis

Seconded: Cr Butler

82573 That the Minutes of the following Committees be received:

- Merrittville Retirement Village Management Committee Meeting held on 22 June 2020.
- Shire of Merredin Bushfire Brigades Annual General Meeting held on 24 June 2020.
- Shire of Merredin Local Emergency Management Committee Meeting held on 25 June 2020.
- Great Eastern Country Zone Meeting held on 25 June 2020.
- State Council Meeting held on 1 July 2020.

CARRIED 9/0

11.	Recommendations from Committee Meetings for Council consideration
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Nil

12.	Officers' Reports - Development Services
Councillor Manning declared an Impartiality Interest in this Item 12.1.	
12.1	3 Benson Road Merredin – Proposed Container Deposit Scheme Facility

Development Services		 SHIRE OF MERREDIN INNOVATING THE WHEATBELT
Responsible Officer:	Peter Zenni, EMDS	
Author:	Peter Zenni, EMDS	
Legislation:	Shire of Merredin Local Planning Scheme No 6.	
File Reference:	A383	
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil	
Attachments:	<u>Attachment 12.1A</u> – Application for development approval, associated plans, and specifications.	

Purpose of Report



Executive Decision



Legislative Requirement

Background

The Shire of Merredin has received an application for development (planning) approval for a storage and sorting facility forming part of a Container Deposit Scheme at Lot 1122 (No 3) Benson Road, Merredin.

Comment

The Western Australian Government is in the process of implementing a Container Deposit Scheme to complement existing kerbside recycling services. Merredin has been identified as a regional population hub that warrants the existence of a Container Deposit Scheme facility.

A representative of the Scheme administrator has been in contact with Shire Executive officers in relation to expressions of interest relating to the operation of a Contained Deposit Scheme facility in Merredin and stated that initial interest from the Merredin Community Resource Centre and the Men's Shed has not progressed.

However, an expression of interest from an individual resulted in an application for development approval being submitted to the Shire of Merredin for a storage and sorting facility forming part of a Container Deposit Scheme at Lot 200 (No 41) Bates Street, Merredin.

Following public advertising of the proposal and public submission received the applicant decided to withdraw the application from any further consideration by Council.

Subsequently the same applicant has submitted a new application for development (planning) approval for a storage and sorting facility forming part of a Container Deposit Scheme at Lot 1122 (No 3) Benson Road, Merredin.

Statutory Requirements

Lot 1122 (No 3) Benson Road is zoned 'Light Industrial' under the Sire of Merredin Local Planning Scheme No. 6 (LPS).

The proposed container deposit scheme facility is not specifically listed as a use class in the zoning tables forming part of the LPS. The closest use class related is that of Warehouse/Storage which is a 'P' use in a Light Industrial zoned area. This means that an activity of this nature would normally be permitted.

Clause 3.4.2 of the LPS states as follows;

“If a person proposes to carry out on land any use that is not specifically mentioned in the Zoning Tables and cannot reasonably be determined as falling within the type, class or genus of activity of any other use category the local government may

–

- a) determine that the use is consistent with the objectives of the particular zone and is therefore permitted;***
- b) determine that the use may be consistent with the objectives of the particular zone and therefore follow the advertising procedures of Clause 64 of the deemed provisions in considering an application for development approval; or***
- c) determine that the use is not consistent with the objectives of the particular zone and is therefore not permitted.”***

The proposed activity will be located in a light industrial area and **will not** be in close proximity to any sensitive premises (dwellings) and as such it is suggested that Council determines that the activity is consistent with the objectives of the zone and as such grant development (planning) approval for the proposed development.

Impacts

Environmental (Noise)

The proposed development will be located in a light industrial area and will not be in a close proximity to any sensitive premises (dwellings). The Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997 assigned (permitted) noise levels are quite high in a light industrial area and there should not be any unreasonable noise emissions associated with the proposed development.

Environmental (Waste/Nuisance)

Not all containers are eligible for refund under the Container Deposit Scheme, there exists a concern that the storage of large quantities of used containers on site may result in pest activity as well as potential litter associated with the disposal on site and on adjoining properties of rejected containers. The extent of this problem is unknown at this time and would depend on the development and implementation of effective litter and pest control programs.

The applicant provides the following comments;

“Waste collection services will be provided at the Site by Avon Waste, for general waste and recyclables. These services will cater for waste generated by the refund point, and any ineligible containers received at the refund point.

Generally ineligible containers will be recyclable, such as milk bottles, so will not be burden to the landfill site, but from time to time litter collections in the vicinity of the refund point will generate waste which is not recyclable. This litter may or may not be as a result of the refund point being present but will be collected if it is in the vicinity no matter what the origin is.”

“All containers and aggregation receptacles will be stored inside within the facility and will not collect standing water where pests such a mosquitoes can breed.

A rodent baiting program and regular insect pest deterrent spray application will be conducted by a registered pest controller.

Site cleanliness will be kept to a high standard, and regular weekly or fortnightly collection of aggregated containers will reduce the opportunity for pests to become established.”

Road Infrastructure

The proposed Container Deposit Scheme facility will be accessed from Benson Road and is deemed to be of sufficient standard to allow for vehicle access to the site.

Policy Implications

Nil

Statutory Implications

Compliance with the Shire of Merredin Local Planning Scheme No 6.

Strategic Implications

➤ Strategic Community Plan

Zone: Economy & Growth

Zone Statement: Merredin Seeks new opportunities for growth and strives to develop rich and multifaceted economy.

Key Priority: 2.3 Supporting initiatives from local businesses for growth

➤ **Corporate Business Plan**

Key Action: 4.1.1 – Continue to update the Integrated Planning Framework, meet statutory requirements of the Local Government Act and Regulations and regulatory obligations required under other regulations.

Directorate: Development Services

Timeline: Ongoing

Sustainability Implications

➤ **Strategic Resource Plan**

Nil

➤ **Workforce Plan**

Directorate: Nil

Activity: Nil

Current Staff: Nil

Focus Area: Nil

Strategy Code: Nil

Strategy: Nil

Implications: Nil

Risk Implications

There is minimal risk of any complaints arising from the proposed development. If the facility is managed properly the potential for vermin and litter should be minimal.

Financial Implications

The relevant development application fees have been paid.

Voting Requirements



Simple Majority



Absolute Majority

Officers' Recommendation / Resolution

Moved: Cr Patroni

Seconded: Cr Van Der Merwe

82574 That Council:

1. Grant development (planning) approval for a Container Deposit Scheme Facility at Lot 1122 (No 3) Benson Road, Merredin as outlined in attachment 12.1A subject to;
 - a. The applicant developing and implementing a litter control program for the property located at Lot 1122 (No 3) Benson Road, Merredin, and the surrounding road reserve.
 - b. The applicant developing and implementing a vermin control program for the property located at Lot 1122 (No 3) Benson Road, Merredin.
2. Advises the applicant that the use of any existing buildings forming part of Lot 1122 (No 3) Benson Road, Merredin must comply with relevant provisions of the Building Act 2011 and the Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1911.

CARRIED 9/0

13. Officers' Reports - Engineering Services

Nil

14. Officers' Reports – Corporate and Community Services

14.1 List of Accounts Paid

Corporate Services		 SHIRE OF MERREDIN INNOVATING THE WHEATBELT
Responsible Officer:	Charlie Brown, EMCS	
Author:	Charlie Brown, EMCS	
Legislation:	<i>Local Government Act 1995; Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996</i>	
File Reference:	Nil	
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil	
Attachments:	Attachment 14.1A - List of Accounts Paid	

Purpose of Report



Executive Decision



Legislative Requirement

Background

The attached List of Accounts Paid during the month of June under Delegated Authority is provided for Council's information.

Comment

Nil

Policy Implications

Nil

Statutory Implications

As outlined in the *Local Government Act 1995* and *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*.

Strategic Implications

➤ **Strategic Community Plan**

Zone: Zone 4 – Communication & Leadership
Zone Statement: Merredin Council engages with its Community and leads by example.
Key Priority: 4.1 – Ensuring all planning, reporting and resourcing is in accordance with best practice, compliance and statutory requirements.

➤ **Corporate Business Plan**

Key Action: 4.1.1 – Continue to update the Integrated Planning Framework, meet statutory requirements of the Local Government Act and Regulations and regulatory obligations required under other regulations.
Directorate: Corporate Services
Timeline: Ongoing

Sustainability Implications

➤ **Strategic Resource Plan**

Compliance with the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996* and to also give Council some direction regarding its management of finance over an extended period of time.

➤ **Workforce Plan**

Directorate: Nil
Activity: Nil
Current Staff: Nil
Focus Area: Nil
Strategy Code: Nil
Strategy: Nil
Implications: Nil

Risk Implications

Council would be contravening the *Local Government Act 1995* and *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996* if this item was not presented to Council.

Financial Implications

All liabilities settled have been in accordance with the Annual Budget provisions.

Voting Requirements



Simple Majority



Absolute Majority

Officer's Recommendation / Resolution

Moved: Cr McKenzie

Seconded: Cr Boehme

82575 That the schedule of accounts paid as listed, covering cheques, EFT's, bank charges, directly debited payments and wages, as numbered and totalling \$879,990.84 from Council's Municipal Fund Bank Account and \$123.30, from Council's Trust Account be endorsed by Council.

CARRIED 9/o

14.2 Statement of Financial Activity

Corporate Services		 SHIRE OF MERREDIN INNOVATING THE WHEATBELT
Responsible Officer:	Charlie Brown, EMCS	
Author:	Charlie Brown, ECMS	
Legislation:	<i>Local Government Act 1995; Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996</i>	
File Reference:	Nil	
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil	
Attachments:	<u>Attachment 14.2A</u> - Statement of Financial Activity <u>Attachment 14.2B</u> – Detailed Statements <u>Attachment 14.2C</u> – Monthly Investment Report <u>Attachment 14.2D</u> – Financial Ratios <u>Attachment 14.2E</u> – Capital Expenditure	

Purpose of Report



Executive Decision



Legislative Requirement

Background

The Statement of Financial Activity, which includes the Detailed Schedules, Statement of Financial Activity, Current Ratios, Capital Expenditure Report, and Investment Register, are attached for Council's information.

Comment

The advanced payment of the Financial Assistance Grant has caused a 14% variance in income. This amount deducted shows a 2.59% variance. This with a 6% variance in Expenditure leaves council in a reasonable position as at the June 30th.

Capital Expenditure

A detailed look at capital expenditure can be found in note 7 and a further report as a separate attachment showing Capital Expenditure is also attached for your information.

Policy Implications

As outlined in the *Local Government Act 1995* and *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*.

Statutory Implications

As outlined in the *Local Government Act 1995* and *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*.

Strategic Implications

➤ Strategic Community Plan

Zone: Zone 4 – Communication & Leadership
Zone Statement: Merredin Council engages with its Community and leads by example.
Key Priority: 4.1 – Ensuring all planning, reporting, and resourcing is in accordance with best practice, compliance and statutory requirements.

➤ Corporate Business Plan

Key Action: 4.1.1 – Continue to update the Integrated Planning Framework, meet statutory requirements of the Local Government Act and Regulations and regulatory obligations required under other regulations.
Directorate: Corporate Services
Timeline: Ongoing

Sustainability Implications

➤ Strategic Resource Plan

Compliance with the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996* and to give Council some direction in regard to its management of finance over an extended period of time.

➤ Workforce Plan

Directorate: Nil
Activity: Nil
Current Staff: Nil
Focus Area: Nil
Strategy Code: Nil
Strategy: Nil
Implications: Nil

Risk Implications

The Financial Activity report is presented monthly and provides a retrospective picture of the activities at the Shire. Contained within the report is information pertaining to the financial cost and delivery of strategic initiatives and key projects.

In order to mitigate the risk of budget over-runs or non-delivery of projects, the Chief Executive Officer has implemented internal control measures such as regular Council and management reporting and a quarterly process to monitor financial performance against budget estimates. Materiality reporting thresholds have been established at half the adopted Council levels, which equate to \$10,000 for operating budget line items and \$10,000 for capital items, to alert management prior to there being irreversible impacts.

It should also be noted that there is an inherent level of risk of misrepresentation of the financials through either human error or potential fraud. The establishment of control measures through a series of efficient systems, policies and procedures, which fall under the responsibility of the CEO as laid out in the *Local Government (Financial Management Regulations) 1996* regulation 5, seek to mitigate the possibility of this occurring. These controls are set in place to provide daily, weekly, and monthly checks to ensure that the integrity of the data provided is reasonably assured.

Financial Implications

The adoption of the Monthly Financial Report is retrospective. Accordingly, the financial implications associated with adopting the Monthly Financial Report are nil.

Voting Requirements



Simple Majority



Absolute Majority

Officers' Recommendation / Resolution

Moved: Cr Billing

Seconded: Cr Patroni

82576

That in accordance with Regulation 34 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*, the Statement of Financial Activity and the Investment Report for the period ending 30 June 2020 be received.

CARRIED 9/0

15. Officers' Reports – Administration

15.1 Process for Major Strategic Review

Administration		 SHIRE OF MERREDIN INNOVATING THE WHEATBELT
Responsible Officer:	Mark Dacombe, T/CEO	
Author:	Mark Dacombe, T/CEO	
Legislation:	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i>	
File Reference:		
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil	
Attachments:	Nil	

Purpose of Report



Executive Decision



Legislative Requirement

Background

This report notes the process being undertaken for a Major Strategic Review undertaken in accordance with the provisions of the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IPR) Framework adopted by the WA State Government.

Comment

All local governments in Western Australia are required to develop a Plan for the Future as prescribed under Section 5.56(1) of the Local Government Act 1995. In 2011, amendments were made to the Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996, specifically the inclusion of regulation 19BA, which in summary, states that a Plan for the Future is to incorporate a Strategic Community Plan (SCP) and a Corporate Business Plan (CBP).

The Strategic Community Plan (SCP) provides the long-term view (10 plus year timeframe) for the Shire and sets out the vision, aspirations, and objectives of the community. There is a strong emphasis on community engagement in the development of the SCP, underpinned by a regulatory requirement to consult with electors and ratepayers.

The Corporate Business Plan (CBP) is responsible for translating the strategic direction of the Shire, articulated within the SCP, into specific priorities and actions at an operational level. The CBP also draws together actions contained within the Long-Term Financial Plan, Capital Works Programs, and various

informing strategies. It provides a medium-term snapshot of operational actions and priorities to inform the annual planning and budgeting process. The CBP is required to be reviewed annually in line with the budget process to ensure priorities are achievable and effectively timed.

Regulation 19C(4) of the Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996 requires the SCP to be reviewed at least once every 4 years. The last major strategic review was carried out in 2018. It is noted that the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries' (DLGSC) Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework and Guidelines include a minor (desktop) review every two years. A minor strategic review was scheduled for 2020.

In the early part of the 2020 calendar year the COVID-19 pandemic emergency was declared and the community and the economy has suffered severe disruption as a result. The impacts of the pandemic are likely to be long lasting with recovery being retarded by there being no vaccine for the virus at this time.

Both the State and Federal Governments are acting to revive the economy and this is likely to present opportunities to not only assist the recovery effort but also to build a stronger foundation for the future regeneration of Merredin and its surrounds. There has possibly never been a better time to grab the future utilising the collective power of the hearts and minds of our community.

This new and not predicted situation necessitates a deeper review of the Council's and community's strategic direction than a minor review under the IPR framework would provide and to this end a Major Review ahead of the four-year cycle has been initiated.

The process for the review has been developed in consultation with the Council through six Council scene setting workshops that established the parameters. During these sessions a program of community engagement has been developed focused on the six strategic zones" (renamed "themes") of the current Strategic Community Plan:

Theme One: Community and Culture

Theme Two: Economy and Growth

Theme Three: Environment and Sustainability

Theme Four: Communication and Leadership

Theme Five: Places and Spaces

Theme Six Transport and Networks.

The timetable for the Strategic Review is as follows:



Followed by:

-  Advertise draft SCP
-  Council adopts SCP
-  Review to informing strategies

The community engagement program includes approximately 12 face to face engagement opportunities, a survey outside the IGA store over six days and an online survey.

This extensive engagement will ensure that the plans address the needs and priorities of the community while taking advantage of the possible externally generated opportunities flowing out of the emergency.

Policy Implications

There are no policy implications resulting from undertaking a Major Strategic Review out of cycle.

Statutory Implications

Local Government Act 1995

5.56. Planning for the future

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

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

[Section 5.56 inserted by No. 49 of 2004 s. 42(6).]

Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996

19BA. Terms used in this Part —

corporate business plan means a plan made under regulation 19DA that, together with a strategic community plan, forms a plan for the future of a district made in accordance with section 5.56

strategic community plan means a plan made under regulation 19C that, together with a corporate business plan, forms a plan for the future of a district made in accordance with section 5.56.

[Regulation 19BA inserted in Gazette 26 Aug 2011 p. 3482-3.]

19CA. Information about modifications to certain plans to be included (Act s. 5.53(2)(i))

(1) This regulation has effect for the purposes of section 5.53(2)(i). (

2) If a modification is made during a financial year to a local government's strategic community plan, the annual report of the local government for the financial year is to contain information about that modification.

(3) If a significant modification is made during a financial year to a local government's corporate business plan, the annual report of the local government for the financial year is to contain information about that significant modification.

[Regulation 19CA inserted in Gazette 26 Aug 2011 p. 3483.]

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

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

(2) A strategic community plan for a district is to cover the period specified in the plan, which is to be at least 10 financial years.

(3) A strategic community plan for a district is to set out the vision, aspirations, and objectives of the community in the district.

(4) A local government is to review the current strategic community plan for its district at least once every 4 years.

(5) In making or reviewing a strategic community plan, a local government is to have regard to —

(a) the capacity of its current resources and the anticipated capacity of its future resources; and

(b) strategic performance indicators and the ways of measuring its strategic performance by the application of those indicators; and

(c) demographic trends.

(6) Subject to subregulation (9), a local government may modify its strategic community plan, including extending the period the plan is made in respect of.

(7) A council is to consider a strategic community plan, or modifications of such a plan, submitted to it and is to determine* whether or not to adopt the plan or the modifications. *Absolute majority required.

(8) If a strategic community plan is, or modifications of a strategic community plan are, adopted by the council, the plan or modified plan applies to the district for the period specified in the plan.

(9) A local government is to ensure that the electors and ratepayers of its district are consulted during the development of a strategic community plan and when preparing modifications of a strategic community plan.

(10) A strategic community plan for a district is to contain a description of the involvement of the electors and ratepayers of the district in the development of the plan or the preparation of modifications of the plan.

[Regulation 19C inserted in Gazette 26 Aug 2011 p. 3483-4.]

19DA. Corporate business plans, requirements for (Act s. 5.56)

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

(2) A corporate business plan for a district is to cover the period specified in the plan, which is to be at least 4 financial years.

(3) A corporate business plan for a district is to —

(a) set out, consistently with any relevant priorities set out in the strategic community plan for the district, a local government's priorities for dealing with the objectives and aspirations of the community in the district; and

(b) govern a local government's internal business planning by expressing a local government's priorities by reference to operations that are within the capacity of the local government's resources; and

(c) develop and integrate matters relating to resources, including asset management, workforce planning and long-term financial planning.

(4) A local government is to review the current corporate business plan for its district every year.

(5) A local government may modify a corporate business plan, including extending the period the plan is made in respect of and modifying the plan if required because of modification of the local government's strategic community plan.

(6) A council is to consider a corporate business plan, or modifications of such a plan, submitted to it and is to determine* whether or not to adopt the plan or the modifications. *Absolute majority required.

(7) If a corporate business plan is, or modifications of a corporate business plan are, adopted by the council, the plan or modified plan applies to the district for the period specified in the plan.

[Regulation 19DA inserted in Gazette 26 Aug 2011 p. 3484-5.]

Strategic Implications

➤ Strategic Community Plan

Zone: 4 Communication and Leadership
Zone Statement: Merredin Council engages with its Community and leads by example
Key Priority: 4.1 Ensuring all planning, reporting and resourcing is in accordance with best practice, compliance and statutory requirements

➤ Corporate Business Plan

Key Action: 4.1.1 Continue to update the Integrated Planning Framework, meet statutory requirements of the Local Government Act and Regulations and regulatory obligations required under other regulations
Directorate: Chief Executive Officer
Timeline: Nil

Sustainability Implications

➤ Strategic Resource Plan

Nil

➤ Workforce Plan

Directorate: Nil
Activity: Nil
Current Staff: Nil
Focus Area: Nil
Strategy Code: Nil
Strategy: Nil
Implications: Nil

Risk Implications

The main risk of not proceeding with a Strategic Review at this time is that the Council is not positioned to take advantage of opportunities that may become available to substantially advance the recovery of the local and regional economy.

Financial Implications

The review is mainly being undertaken within current staff resources. Some external typing resource has been contracted together with catering costs is additional but within budget.

Voting Requirements



Simple Majority



Absolute Majority

Officer's Recommendation / Resolution

Moved: Cr Manning

Seconded: Cr Boehme

82577 That Council:

1. Endorses the process and timeline for the Shire of Merredin Major Strategic Review as outlined in this report.
2. Notes that a community engagement report will be developed detailing the responses of the community to the engagement process.

CARRIED 9/o

Motions of which Previous Notice has been given

16.1 Notice of Motion

Councillor Butler has given notice of his intention to move the following motion at the ordinary Council meeting to be held on Tuesday, 21 July 2020:

Motion: That, within the next twelve months, the Merredin Shire Council should purchase for the Shire fleet a battery-electric (BEV or EV) passenger vehicle. This vehicle should not be additional to the vehicle fleet but should replace one passenger vehicle sold after the usual retention period of 12 months.

Background

Although still relatively rare in Australia, and especially in rural Australia, BEVs are no longer experimental or unproven. It is time that the Shire purchased an electric vehicle and join an increasing number of urban and rural shires around Australia that, by doing so, are displaying their commitment to innovation and sustainable energy practices.

There is world-wide science-based concern about climate change, associated with a rise in greenhouse gas emissions. Vehicle emissions are responsible for some of the greenhouse gases, and also for other noxious gases. Compared with internal combustion engine – driven (ICE) vehicles, EVs emit no exhaust gases. EVs are much more economical than ICE vehicles (at least half as expensive) to both fuel and to maintain. To drive, an EV is similar, but superior to an ICE automatic vehicle, especially in relation to acceleration, silence and ability to regain some battery charge while slowing or descending.

Criticisms of EVs currently relate to purchase price, range, battery issues (especially replacement cost) and ease and speed of battery charging. For the Shire, an EV purchase price will be markedly less than for a private citizen. There are now at least three EV models available in Australia that will travel ~400 km or more on a full charge. Battery warranties are generally for ~8 years. Most privately owned EVs are charged at home for ~80% of the time, often from an owner's solar PV system. The Shire has numerous arrays of PV panels on Shire property so would obviously use their own power for most charging. For travelling, a network of vehicle chargers is now widespread in WA, though admittedly they are less common in rural areas. Fast DC chargers, that will charge a battery to 80% in ~40 minutes or less, are mainly still limited to the city and SW coastal areas. So-called destination chargers will take perhaps 5-8 hours for 80% plus charge. This is quite satisfactory for an overnight stay or longer daytime stop.

The rapid uptake of solar photovoltaic (PV) panels for private and commercial use illustrates that citizens are willing to take action, given clear environmental and economic incentives for PV systems. The logical

next step for many who have home PV arrays is some kind of battery storage (at home or in the community) and an electric car. Both of these, though desirable, are currently not yet cost effective for most people. The Shire should show leadership in obtaining an EV and explain to the community why it has taken this step. The vehicle should be made readily visible by signage or other distinguishing feature.

The following websites contain relevant information:

Best website for EV info is The Driven <https://thedriven.io/>

Australian EV owners <https://www.aeva.asn.au/>

For general sustainable technology info, including EVs, One Step Off The Grid <https://onestepoffthegrid.com.au>

Temporary CEO comment: The purchase, ownership and operation of electric vehicles is not yet addressed in Council policy. If the Council is of a mind to trial the use of an electric vehicle as a replacement for an existing vehicle the most suitable would be the pool vehicle currently allocated to the Environmental Health Officer. This vehicle undertakes multiple short trips over a week mainly around town and between Merredin and Kellerberrin. It is due for replacement in the current year.

The timeline identified in the notice of motion would allow a formal assessment to be undertaken before the purchase of the vehicle to ascertain the life cycle costs and suitability for our use before a purchase was made.

The Council has several options to deal with the proposal including:

- i) Pass the motion as presented. Officers would then proceed with budget provision and the procurement process. Noting that the motion says “should” purchase an electric vehicle a report would be brought back to Council with a recommendation on the vehicle most suitable for the use.
- ii) Not pass the motion as presented but refer the matter to the Chief Executive Officer for report. Officers would then bring back a report assessing the suitability of an electric vehicle for fleet use including comparative life cycle costs and other considerations. Based on the findings of the report the Council would then consider whether or not to proceed with the procurement process.
- iii) Not pass the motion. The matter would not receive any further consideration by officers.

Officer's Recommendation / Resolution

Moved: Cr Butler

Seconded: Cr Patroni

82578 That Council:

That, within the next twelve months, the Merredin Shire Council should purchase for the Shire fleet a battery-electric (BEV or EV) passenger vehicle. This vehicle should not be additional to the vehicle fleet but should replace one passenger vehicle sold after the usual retention period of 12 months.

CARRIED 5/4

17.	Questions by Members of which Due Notice has been given
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Nil

18.	Urgent Business Approved by the Person Presiding or by Decision
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Nil

19.	Matters Behind Closed Doors
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Nil

20.	Closure
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There being no further business the President then thanked those in attendance and declared the meeting closed at 5:57pm

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