

Strategic Planning Committee

Minutes | 12th April 2022

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SHIRE OF QUAIRADING

Strategic Planning Committee

The Minutes of the Strategic Planning Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 12th April 2022 commencing at 4.53 pm.

ITEM 1 OPENING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chief Executive Officer opened the Meeting at 4.53pm.

“Before we start our Meeting, I would like to acknowledge that we are meeting on Noongar/Ballardong land. We pay respect to the original custodians of the land...past, present and future. I welcome you all here today for this meeting.”

Election of Presiding Member

Due to the absence of elected Chairperson, Cr McGuinness, the Strategic Planning Committee was required to elect an Acting Presiding Member.

The CEO called for nominations.

Cr Haythornthwaite nominated Cr Stacey.

Cr Stacey was elected unopposed.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

RECOMMENDATION: SP16-21/22

MOVED Cr Haythornthwaite SECONDED Cr Cheang

That the Strategic Planning Committee elects Cr Trevor Stacey to be the acting Presiding member for the Strategic Planning Committee meeting dated 12th April 2022.

CARRIED 7/0

ITEM 2 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Councillors

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Cr TJ Stacey | Acting Chairperson |
| Cr PD Smith | Shire President |
| Cr E Cheang | |
| Cr JC Hayes | |
| Cr JN Haythornthwaite | |
| Cr JR Hippisley | |
| Cr BR Cowcill | |

Council Officers

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Ms NJ Gibbs | Chief Executive Officer |
| Mrs LM Horton | Executive Manager, Corporate Services |
| Mr RM Bleakley | Executive Manager, Community, Projects & Strategy |
| Miss BJ Hadlow | Executive Officer |

Apologies

Cr B McGuinness

Leave of Absence Previously Granted

Cr B McGuinness

ITEM 3 DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS/SUBMISSIONS/PETITIONS

Nil.

ITEM 4 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Cr Hayes declared an impartial interest with item 8.9 Community Grants Program being that she is the Treasurer of the Quairading Agricultural Society and prepared the Community Grant application for the organisation.

Cr Smith declared an impartial interest with item 8.9 Community Grants Program being that he is the President of the Quairading Agricultural Society.

Cr Cowcill declared an impartial interest with item 8.9 Community Grants Program being that she is the President of the Wamenusking Sports Club Inc and the organisation had submitted an application for the program.

ITEM 5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES AND BUSINESS ARISING

5.1 Confirmation of Minutes – 15th February 2022

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

RECOMMENDATION: SP17-21/22

MOVED Cr Hayes SECONDED Cr Haythornthwaite

That the Minutes of the Strategic Planning Committee Meeting held on the 15th February 2022 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

CARRIED 7/0

5.2 Business Arising

Cr Haythornthwaite asked for an update on a previous query by Cr Stacey, being the manner in which landowners were notified if they lived overseas and their property was subject to impact by bushfire. The specific property in question is at the intersection of Kellerberrin-Yoting Road and Hayes East Road, Mt Stirling and was impacted by the Corrigin Bushfires (February 2022).

Ms Gibbs said that the Shire had attempted to contact the land owner by sending a letter, searching the owner on social media and reaching out to the community for contact details but had been unsuccessful in making contact. The Community Emergency Services Manager (CESM) was sent out to check the impacted property to confirm that the fire in question was no longer burning.

Outsourcing rates has exposed some deficiencies in how we have previously managed rate payers' details. Attempts to contact the land owner will be made again and a system put in place to ensure future proofing for ensuring all land owners are notified of property damage due to bushfire. This will likely be through inclusion in the Local Emergency Recovery Plan, which is now due for review.

6.1 The Groves

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Meeting Date: | 12 th April 2022 |
| Responsible Officer: | Nicole Gibbs (Chief Executive Officer) |
| Reporting Officer: | Nicole Gibbs (Chief Executive Officer) |
| Attachments: | (i) The Groves concept plan – Alternate access (ii) Preliminary Design - Access |
| Owner/Applicant: | The Shire of Quairading |
| Disclosure of Interest: | Nil |

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

RECOMMENDATION: SP18-21/22**MOVED Cr Hayes SECONDED Cr Smith**

That the Strategic Planning Committee recommend to Council: -

That Council note the information and await a response from the Noongar community via the Reconciliation Action Plan Committee Meeting.

CARRIED 7/0

VOTING REQUIREMENTS – Simple Majority**IN BRIEF**

Council has made a significant commitment to the Quairading Noongar community to establish legal access to 'The Groves,' a small section of land located within the Quairading Community Nature Reserve. Council made this commitment in an attempt to support the culturally diverse needs of the Aboriginal people. 'The Groves' was previously the site of an Aboriginal town camp (1950s - 1970s). As such, the land continues to have cultural significance to the local Noongar people.

The Noongar population want to use 'The Groves' as an area where people may gather to celebrate the cultural significance of the area.

The area is zoned for short-term camping. Establishing lawful access to a camping site (and by default assuming lawful responsibility and liability for the consequences of that access) necessitates the need for the Shire to provide toilets and drinking water.

Unfortunately, at the time Council made the commitment to the Noongar community to provide legal access, there was no business case, no cost-benefit analysis nor projected costs available for consideration.

A simplistic cost-benefit performed last month suggested that the 'access project' in its current form is cost-prohibitive because the construction costs attached to the project are excessive and unfunded. The Shire has since received confirmation from an established and experienced engineering firm that the estimated cost of construction is \$80,000. The project has no funding source for the construction works. An alternate access solution needs to be offered to the Noongar community.

BACKGROUND

The Nookaminnie Community Nature Reserve (established under the auspice of the *Land Act 1933* and approved by the Minister for Lands: Lot 28882 on Deposited Plan 216451 Volume LR3135 Folio 962) is a 527ha parcel of diverse bushland two kilometres west of the Quairading town site. The reserve is situated on the north and south sides of the York-Merredin Road.

The reserve was established in 1995 and is now vested in the Shire of Quairading for the purposes of conservation of flora and fauna. 'The Groves' is located within the nature reserve, approximately 500 metres in from Quairading-York Road.

The Shire has formally committed to resolving the legal access issue. This commitment means that the Shire is now legally compelled to provide a toilet and water tank and to place the 'The Groves' on the Shire's maintenance schedule (predominantly for grass/weed maintenance). This is because:

- The *Work Health & Safety Act 2020* prohibits the Shire from sending employees in to maintain an area if people are using open bushland as toilets without hazard materials PPE;
- The Shire is liable if there is no potable drinking water available on the site and someone becomes unwell or dies as a result of drinking unpotable water; and
- The *Bushfires Act 1954* and *Local Government Act 1994* compel the Shire to perform fire prevention management on the nature reserve.

In December 2021, the Public Transport Authority, Arc Infrastructure and Main Roads agreed to approve the legal access, subject to the development of engineering drawings and the use of Arc approved contractors to perform the works.

Since that point in time it has become apparent that the cost of obtaining the engineering drawings and using Arc approved contractors to perform the construction works will be far higher than Shire officers had anticipated.

MATTER FOR CONSIDERATION

Over the past three months the Shire has been gathering information critical to decision-making relevant to this project as expediently as possible. The information update is as follows:

1. In December 2021 the Public Transport Authority (PTA), Arc Infrastructure and Main Roads agreed to approve the project, subject to the development of engineering drawings.
2. In December 2021 the engineering company was engaged to develop the engineering drawings on the understanding that the cost of the drawings would be less than \$10,000. The cost to date has been closer to \$25,000 and this amount exceeds the budget assigned to the entire 'Groves' project.
3. While there is a potential water pipe that could be used which is running parallel to the track that goes to the 'Groves' (see screenshot below), the pipe is a farmland-reticulated pipe, considered in Water Corp as a 'non-standard service.' A non-standard service application form was submitted and the following information was obtained:
 - 3.1 Low flow rates: 2.8 litres per minute.
 - 3.2 Issues with continuity: A tank would still need to be installed to guarantee the supply

- 3.3 Issues with water quality: The water within this pipe is not potable so a filtration system would need to be installed on site.
4. The most challenging concern is the projected cost of constructing the access. Constructing across a railway line is highly regulated and cannot be performed by Shire employees. The Shire would be required to use Arc Infrastructure approved contractors with specialised experience in this space.
 5. There is alternate access option that could be developed and finalised immediately using internal resources without requiring external approvals. However, this option was discarded by both the Shire and the Noongar community for unknown reasons some years ago in preference of the current option. The alternate option would have had the access point commencing approximately 500m from Jennaberring Road. A concept drawing is attached as Attachment (i).
 6. Immediate discussions are being arranged with the Noongar community through the RAP Committee to update the community on the above information and to arrange a way forward. The timing of the next meeting will need to be bought forward to ensure the Shire is not delaying an outcome.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

Local Government Act 1995
Work Health & Safety Act 2020
Bushfires Act 1954

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

| | | |
|-----------|---|--|
| Option 1: | The alternate option depicted in (Attachment i), whereby access is gained from behind the CBH paddocks. | |
| | Works & Services Team labour times one week: | \$6,000 (Accounted for in current work schedule) |
| | Reproofing 1km of rabbit proof fence: | \$1,500 |
| | Gravel sheeting truck: (\$130 per hour x 8 hours per day x 10 days) | \$5,200 |
| | Toilet & Water Tank | \$12,000 |
| | TOTAL: | \$24,700 |
| Option 2: | Continuing with the current option, whereby access is gained from Quairading-York Road. | |
| | Construction by Arc Infrastructure approved contractors: | \$80,000 (minimum) |
| | Works & Services Team labour times one week: | \$6,000 |
| | Reproofing 1km of rabbit proof fence: | \$1,500 |
| | Gravel sheeting truck: (\$130 per hour x 8 hours per day x 10 days) | \$5,200 |
| | Toilet & Water Tank | \$12,000 |
| | TOTAL: | \$104,700 |

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

3.2 Built Environment: Parks, gardens and social spaces are safe and encourage active, engaged and healthy lifestyles.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Extensive 10-year consultation period with the Noongar community on both a formal and informal basis.

RISK ASSESSMENT

| | Option 1 | Option 2 |
|---------------------|--|---|
| Financial | Medium <i>Refer to Financial Implications above</i> | High <i>Refer to Financial Implications above</i> |
| Health | n/a | n/a |
| Reputation | Low <i>The Works & Services Team salary component is already committed and one week of work will not detract from existing commitments.</i> | High <i>It is unlikely that rate payers would endorse the use of the level of funding for the purpose.</i> |
| Operations | Low | High <i>There is no grant funding opportunity available for the project and so it will need to be deducted from the current operations budget.</i> |
| Natural Environment | Low | Low |

| Likelihood | Consequence | | | | |
|----------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Insignificant | Minor | Moderate | Major | Critical |
| Rare | LOW Accept the risk Routine management | LOW Accept the risk Routine management | LOW Accept the risk Routine management | MEDIUM Specific responsibility and treatment | HIGH Quarterly senior management review |
| Unlikely | LOW Accept the risk Routine management | LOW Accept the risk Routine management | MEDIUM Specific responsibility and treatment | MEDIUM Specific responsibility and treatment | HIGH Quarterly senior management review |
| Possible | LOW Accept the risk Routine management | MEDIUM Specific responsibility and treatment | MEDIUM Specific responsibility and treatment | HIGH Quarterly senior management review | HIGH Quarterly senior management review |
| Likely | MEDIUM Specific responsibility and treatment | MEDIUM Specific responsibility and treatment | HIGH Quarterly senior management review | HIGH Quarterly senior management review | EXTREME Monthly senior management review |
| Almost certain | MEDIUM Specific responsibility and treatment | MEDIUM Specific responsibility and treatment | HIGH Quarterly senior management review | EXTREME Monthly senior management review | EXTREME Monthly senior management review |

COMMENT

Cr Hayes queried if any permissions would be required to remove shrubbery. Ms Gibbs responded that previous Executive Manager, Works and Services, Mr Wallace initially thought there may be a requirement for permissions to remove vegetation, but there is no vegetation that requires to be removed. The shrubbery just needs to be cut back away from the path.

Ms Gibbs explained option 1 is much more efficient as there is no permissions required from Main Roads or ARC Infrastructure as we own the land, and it is work that can be carried out by our own workers.

7.1 Electric Vehicle Station

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Meeting Date | 12 th April 2022 |
| Responsible Officer | Nicole Gibbs (Chief Executive Officer) |
| Reporting Officer | Jen Green (Grants & Projects Officer) |
| Attachments | (i) Project Proposal |
| Owner/Applicant | N/A |
| Disclosure of Interest | Nil |

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

MOVER NIL

That the Strategic Planning Committee recommend to Council: -

1. That Council accepts the officer's project proposal on an electric vehicle charging station for Quairading submitted by the Grants and Project Officer.
2. That Council notes that the Shire will be approaching both fuel providers in town to ascertain whether they will contribute \$25,000 to the \$50,000 total cost for the infrastructure and the installation of a fast-charging EV station at one of the two premises.
3. That if both fuel vendors decline the offer for a 50% contribution to the fast-charging EV station, officers will be tabling a proposal at the May 2022 Council Meeting recommending that Council fund 100% of the project costs.

MOTION LASPED

ALTERNATIVE RECOMMENDATION**RECOMMENDATION: SP19-21/22****MOVED Cr Smith SECONDED Cr Cowcill**

That the Strategic Planning Committee recommend to Council: -

That the motion to discuss and progress the electric vehicle charger project is deferred until the Strategic Planning Committee Meeting of 9th August 2022, to allow the officers to conduct additional investigation.

CARRIED 4/3

IN BRIEF

- The Grants Team were requested by Council to investigate the purchase and installation of electric vehicle charging infrastructure within the town site.
- Two quotes have been sourced and a proposal prepared detailing the preferred infrastructure option and the upfront and ongoing project costs.
- There is currently no external grant funding available to support this project and Council may need to consider funding the entire project.

MATTER FOR CONSIDERATION

Introducing electric vehicle charging infrastructure into the Shire of Quairading.

BACKGROUND

With an increasing adoption of EV vehicles being purchased in Western Australia, there has been a strong shift towards providing the infrastructure to facilitate travel all over Western Australia.

As Western Australian's embrace the electric vehicle technology, it is imperative for EV charging infrastructure to be available to encourage visitors to change their travel route to the South West Great Southern and Eastern Wheatbelt, off the main highways and through small towns such as Quairading. An EV station opens many opportunities including economic benefits for small local business, not to mention the overall environmental benefits of encouraging renewable energy.

The attached Project Proposal outlines the background, costs, potential benefits and business models for funding the project.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

Local Government Act 1995

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- Nil in the 2022-23 Financial year
- Submitted for 2022-23 budget deliberations

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS – Strategic Community Plan 2021-2031

- 2.1 Economy: Promote the Economic and Business Growth Strategy for current businesses and the sustainable attraction of new industry (Small Business Friendly Local Government and Action Plan)
- 4.3 Natural Environment: Demonstrate sustainable practices of water, energy and waste management
- 5.1 Governance: Shire communication is consistent, engaging and responsive
- 5.3 Governance: Provide informed and transparent decision making that, meets our legal obligations, and the needs of our diverse community

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

The Quairading Community Resource Centre (CRC) Manager has indicated their full support of the project, including the use of car spaces adjacent to the switchboard in the CRC car park.

RISK ASSESSMENT

| | Rating |
|-----------|---|
| Financial | Low <i>The project is currently in design phase. If accepted by Council, a detailed budget submission will be drawn up to be submitted to the Council Budget f2022/23.</i> |
| Health | n/a |

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Reputation | Low <i>Progression with the project would be seen by the community as i) encouraging more travellers to pass through Quairading with an economic multiplier impact, and ii) the Shire's commitment to reducing its carbon footprint and addressing climate change.</i> |
| Operations | n/a |
| Natural Environment | Low <i>A reduction in carbon footprint is beneficial to the natural environment.</i> |

| Likelihood | Consequence | | | | |
|----------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Insignificant | Minor | Moderate | Major | Critical |
| Rare | LOW Accept the risk Routine management | LOW Accept the risk Routine management | LOW Accept the risk Routine management | MEDIUM Specific responsibility and treatment | HIGH Quarterly senior management review |
| Unlikely | LOW Accept the risk Routine management | LOW Accept the risk Routine management | MEDIUM Specific responsibility and treatment | MEDIUM Specific responsibility and treatment | HIGH Quarterly senior management review |
| Possible | LOW Accept the risk Routine management | MEDIUM Specific responsibility and treatment | MEDIUM Specific responsibility and treatment | HIGH Quarterly senior management review | HIGH Quarterly senior management review |
| Likely | MEDIUM Specific responsibility and treatment | MEDIUM Specific responsibility and treatment | HIGH Quarterly senior management review | HIGH Quarterly senior management review | EXTREME Monthly senior management review |
| Almost certain | MEDIUM Specific responsibility and treatment | MEDIUM Specific responsibility and treatment | HIGH Quarterly senior management review | EXTREME Monthly senior management review | EXTREME Monthly senior management review |

COMMENT

- A Project Proposal has been developed for the purchase and installation of a 50kw Fast Charging Electric Vehicle Station.
- Four potential locations within Quairading have been identified.
- Providing a public charging station has many potential benefits for tourism and local business.
- There is currently no external grant funding available to cover the cost of the project.

Ms Gibbs said that there were no current grants available for this type of project and discussions with funding bodies indicated that this position will not change in the near future.

Cr Haythornthwaite commended Jen Green on the quality of the agenda item.

Cr Haythornthwaite said the idea of approaching local businesses for a contribution was a worthwhile endeavour but was dubious as to whether any would be receptive.

Cr Cheang said it will be a long time into the future before an electric car station is required because there are minimal electric cars in use at this time. There was group discussion and different views on the timing of all (or most) people moving across to electric vehicles.

Cr Smith said if Council does not act, Quairading would be one of the few local governments without a charging station. Cr Smith would like to see the Expression of Interest opened up to all businesses in the town.

Cr Hayes said Council had time to act on the motion. Cr Hayes said the station would be a 12-week build and that there are not yet many electric cars in the State. Cr Hayes predicted the price would drop with time. Potential funding could come to be available. Electrical vehicle stations are currently powered by coal generated power. Cr Hayes suggested the Shire could invest in cleaner power to make a point of difference. Council requested a higher level of investigation, to be tabled at the April 2022 or May 2022 Ordinary Council Meeting, dependent on the availability of the information.

Cr Hippisley said we should move ahead with the project as soon as possible because encouraging people to purchase an electric vehicle station is the “right move” environmentally. With regards to the Expression of Interest, he said asking for a contribution of any amount towards the project could potentially allow the business to have a vote on the location of the station.

Cr Cowcill agreed that we have time to consider the project in more detail. A suggestion was to offer a loan to a business to purchase a station or to buy the station back after a certain amount of time. This would need to be in accord with the Local Government Act and Regulations.

Cr Smith suggested that Council could include the sum of \$50,000 in the 2022/23 budget to allow for the option for the electric vehicle station to be purchased should the revised business case and cost-benefit analysis support the project.

8.1 Strategic Community Plan

Strategic planning is the process of defining the vision, mission and objectives of the organization over a set period of time, and the strategies by which these goals will be achieved and resourced.

The current Strategic Community Plan 2021-31 was adopted by Council on 29 July 2021. Implementation of initiatives has commenced and is being managed and monitored through the Project Tracking Spreadsheet and other regulatory reporting mechanisms.

Pending Actions

- Minor review is due in 2023
- Major review is due in 2025.

The CEO will provide Council with a solid plan for ensuring compliance in terms of a reviewed, amended and accurate document.

8.2 Corporate Business Plan

A Corporate Business Plan is an internal business planning tool that translates council priorities into operations within the resources available. The Corporate Business Plan and Long-term Financial Plan drive the annual budget.

The current Corporate Business Plan was due to be reviewed and updated by July 2021. It is now non-compliant.

Pending Actions

- The Executive Management Team met in January 2022 to outline respective roles and responsibilities with regard to development of the new Plan.
- A draft document will be provided to Council in June 2022.

The CEO will provide Council with a solid plan for ensuring compliance in terms of a reviewed, amended and accurate document.

8.3 Asset Management Plan

An Asset Management Plan is a tactical plan for managing an organisation's infrastructure and other assets to deliver an agreed standard of service. The primary objectives are:

- *Justification: To give visibility of the costs and benefits associated with providing the agreed standard of service.*
- *Optimisation: To minimize the whole-life cost, including the operation, maintenance and replacement or disposal of each asset in the system.*

The Asset Management Plan was due to be reviewed and updated by July 2017. It is now non-compliant.

- The Executive Management Team met in January 2022 to outline respective roles and responsibilities with regard to development of the new Plan.
- A draft document will be provided to Council in June 2022.

The CEO will provide Council with a solid plan for ensuring compliance in terms of a reviewed, amended and accurate document.

8.4 Long-term Financial Management Plan

The Long Term Financial Plan is a ten-year rolling plan that informs the Corporate Business Plan to activate Strategic Community Plan priorities. From these planning processes, annual budgets that are aligned with strategic objectives can be developed.

Unfortunately the current Long-term Financial Management Plan does not appear to have been active for approximately four years. That is, there appears to have been limited capacity to review, amend or use the document as a tool to assist strategic, financial or asset planning. The Long-term Financial Management Plan does not appear to integrate into the Strategic Community Plan nor the Asset Management Plan and so is no longer relevant. This is with the exception that the document provides a base-line for the development of a new Long-term Financial Management Plan.

- The Long-term Financial Management Plan is under development and a draft will be presented to Council for consideration in June 2022.

The CEO will provide Council with a solid plan for ensuring compliance in terms of a reviewed, amended and accurate document.

8.5 Workforce Management Strategy

A workforce strategy is a form of asset management. Recognising that employees are a key asset, the Strategy details actions to acquire, retain, develop, motivate and deploy human capital in the service of an organisation's mission.

The Workforce Plan was adopted by Council on 29 April 2021. The Strategy is due for a major review in 2022 because it was originally drafted in 2018.

Pending Actions

- The Executive Management Team met in January 2022 to outline respective roles and responsibilities with regard to the development of the new Strategy.
- A draft document will be provided to Council in June 2022.
- Outstanding action items from the current Workforce Plan are currently being actioned as a matter of priority. This include but is not limited to:
 1. Internet connections and capacity are fast becoming inadequate in the Shire as information and communication technology use increases and expectations rise among the community members and key stakeholders.

In March 2022, the Shire tendered for an Information and Communication Technology (ICT) provider to ensure with the intent of increasing the quality of both service and connection and ensuring continuity of business, regardless of circumstance.

2. Workload and capacity at the Medical Centre impacting on training and development.

The Medical Centre was under-resourced with the receptionist often being the only employee on the premises with the doctor. This has resulted in breaches of the *Fair Work Act 2009*, in terms of no lunch break, no morning or afternoon break and an expectation that the receptionist performs other unpaid administrative roles on her way home from work. There are now two receptionists but the Practice Manager is on leave for two months due to personal reasons.

COMMENT

Ms Gibbs advised that a plan had been developed to address all outdated compliance documents and she would speak to this plan at the April 2022 Council Meeting.

8.6 Organisational Culture and Capacity Building

Briefing/report on the culture, capacity and opportunities for improvement and efficiency six (6) monthly.

Investment into Works & Services Employees

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Meeting Date: | 12 th April 2022 |
| Responsible Officer: | Nicole Gibbs (Chief Executive Officer) |
| Reporting Officer: | Nicole Gibbs (Chief Executive Officer) |
| Attachments: | Nil |
| Owner/Applicant: | Shire of Quairading |
| Disclosure of Interest: | Nil |

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

RECOMMENDATION: SP20-21/22

MOVED Cr Haythornthwaite SECONDED Cr Hippisley

That the Strategic Planning Committee recommend to Council: -

That Council notes the information provided and is advised that the 2022/2023 budget will propose the funding of professional development strategies for Works & Services employees.

CARRIED 7/0

IN BRIEF

The Shire of Quairading's Works & Services employees must be well-positioned to compete for employment positions with a larger local government in preparation of the amalgamation of Western Australian local governments (whether this occurs in two, five or more years). This is not currently the case.

Without immediate investment in professional development for nominated Works & Services employees, there is a high-level risk that the employees will be forced to leave the Wheatbelt area to obtain employment elsewhere.

BACKGROUND

Historically the Shire of Quairading has employed executive members of staff through a mix of residential and 'drive in-drive out' models. Over the past 10 years it has been solely a 'drive in-drive out' model until the recent employment of the current Executive Manager, Corporate Services and CEO. Conversely, operational employees have tended to reside permanently in Quairading or surrounding Shires.

A recent analysis of employee training and other professional development records indicates that the primary investment for professional development has been directed towards executive members of staff while little investment in operational employees have been afforded. Of concern, employees (including long-term employees) working in the Works & Services area have been provided **only** with the opportunity to obtain base qualifications to be able to legally perform in the role. This is a high-level risk for the sustainability of the Quairading community.

The amalgamation of Western Australian local governments is inevitable (whether this occurs in two, five or more years) and our employees must be positioned to be competitive when this occurs. At this point in time our Works & Services employees are not positioned well to compete for positions with a larger local government. The larger local government after amalgamation will be either a Band 1 or Band 2 local government, so there will be high-level competition for the resulting well paid employment positions.

If Shire of Quairading employees do not secure positions with the new local government, the risk is a reduction of people residing in Quairading and the potential decline of associated businesses.

MATTER FOR CONSIDERATION

The matter for consideration is the level of priority Council places on the immediate need to assist in the professional development of our Works & Services employees.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

Local Government Act 1995

Work Health & Safety Act 2020

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

A proposed schedule of professional development will be tabled at the May 2022 Council Meeting.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- 1.1 Community: Work collaboratively with local and regional service providers to engage the community as active citizens.
- 2.1 Economy: Promote the economic and business growth strategy for current businesses and the sustainable attraction of new industry (Small Business Friendly Local Government and Action Plan).
- 2.4 Economy: Encourage local workforce participation.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Nil

RISK ASSESSMENT

| | Option 1 | Retain Current Status |
|---------------------|----------|-----------------------|
| Financial | Low | Potentially Extreme |
| Health | Low | High |
| Reputation | Low | High |
| Operations | Low | High |
| Natural Environment | n/a | n/a |

| | Consequence | | | | |
|----------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| Likelihood | Insignificant | Minor | Moderate | Major | Critical |
| Rare | LOW Accept the risk Routine management | LOW Accept the risk Routine management | LOW Accept the risk Routine management | MEDIUM Specific responsibility and treatment | HIGH Quarterly senior management review |
| Unlikely | LOW Accept the risk Routine management | LOW Accept the risk Routine management | MEDIUM Specific responsibility and treatment | MEDIUM Specific responsibility and treatment | HIGH Quarterly senior management review |
| Possible | LOW Accept the risk Routine management | MEDIUM Specific responsibility and treatment | MEDIUM Specific responsibility and treatment | HIGH Quarterly senior management review | HIGH Quarterly senior management review |
| Likely | MEDIUM Specific responsibility and treatment | MEDIUM Specific responsibility and treatment | HIGH Quarterly senior management review | HIGH Quarterly senior management review | EXTREME Monthly senior management review |
| Almost certain | MEDIUM Specific responsibility and treatment | MEDIUM Specific responsibility and treatment | HIGH Quarterly senior management review | EXTREME Monthly senior management review | EXTREME Monthly senior management review |

COMMENT

Ms Gibbs said she is currently working with the Works & Services staff to determine the skills, qualifications and knowledge gaps and the funding required to fill these gaps with internal staff.

Cr Stacey said he was concerned that road works would fall behind if an Executive Manager, Works & Services (EMWS) was not engaged as soon as possible. Ms Gibbs said:

- That she had worked with Mr Darren Wallace prior to his departure to gain a higher level of understanding of the works schedule.
- That the schedule of works appeared to have often been behind, regardless of whether there was a current EMWS or not.
- That there were systems (and other issues) impacting on meeting the works schedule that needed to be addressed within and outside of the Works & Services area.
- That it was the EMWS' role to develop schedule of works and the Leading Hand's role to ensure the schedule of works was achieved. The EMWS role was not operational.

Ms Gibbs said the successful applicant must have a strong background in managing and acquitting grants, project and program delivery and financial management or a strong desire and ability to develop these skills internally.

8.7 Business Support Grant Program

No applications have been received since the December 2021 Council Meeting. Re-advertising of the program has commenced.

8.8 Waste & Recycling Facility Environmental Health Matters

In late December 2021 it was established that the workplace conditions provided to employees located at the waste facility are in breach of the Work Health and Safety Act 2020, the Fair Work Act 2009 and the Public Health Act 2016. Outstanding matters to resolve compliance issues include:

Both the office donger and the toilet donger are dilapidated and sinking into the ground. The previous Executive Manager, Works & Services (EMWS), was obtaining quotes to rectify the issue before leaving. The new EMWS will complete this project.

8.9 Community Grants Program (2022/23) – Round 1

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Meeting Date | 12th April 2022 |
| Responsible Officer | Nicole Gibbs (Chief Executive Officer) |
| Reporting Officer | Jen Green (Grants & Projects Officer) |
| Attachments | (i) Community Grant Assessment (ii) Grant Applications |
| Owner/Applicant | N/A |
| Disclosure of Interest | Cr Jo Hayes – Treasurer of the Agricultural Society. Cr Peter Smith – President of the Agricultural Society. Cr Cowcill – President of Wamenusking Sport Club Inc. |

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

RECOMMENDATION: SP21-21/22

MOVED Cr Hayes SECONDED Cr Cheang

That the Strategic Planning Committee recommend to Council: -

1. That Council accepts the Officer's Report on Round 1 of the 2022/23 Community Grants and supports the Grant Assessment Document submitted by the Grants and Project Officer.
2. That Council allocates funds and resources in the 2022/23 Budget for Round 1 to the value of \$13,223.33 to the Clubs listed in the Grant Assessment Document; and
3. That Council allocates \$12,000 in the 2022/23 Budget for Grant 1 In-Kind funding and Round 2 of the Community Grant Program 2022/23.

CARRIED 7/0

IN BRIEF

- Community Grant Process was reviewed, updated and endorsed by the Council in December 2021.
- Eight applications were received for Round 1 to the value of \$13,223.33.
- Details of each Application have been provided for Committee Consideration and Recommendation to Council.
- All applications were evaluated by the Grant Team based on criteria in the Grant Guidelines.

MATTER FOR CONSIDERATION

1. Evaluation of Community Grant Applications received by Grants Project Officer on 31st March 2022.
2. Allocation of financial resources in the 2022/23 Shire's Annual Budget.
3. Allocation of financial resources in Round 1 of Community Grant Program.
4. Allocation of financial resources for Grant 1 – In-Kind funding 2022/23.
5. Allocation of financial resources for Round 2 of Community Grant Program 2022/23.

BACKGROUND

At the December 2021 Council Meeting the Council adopted a revised Community Grants Policy and supporting documentation.

Round 1 of the Community Grant Program was opened on 4th January 2022 with Policy and Grant Application forms forwarded to all Sporting and Recreation Clubs via email and regular advertising was conducted in the Banksia Bulletin, Passion Sheet and via the Quairading Shire Facebook Page.

Follow-up promotion of the Grants Program was circulated on the Shire's Facebook page on a regular basis and email.

Closing date for the submission of applications for grant funding was on 31st March 2022.

Four categories of Grant Funding were promoted:

Grant 1 - up to \$500 per annum – in-kind contributions from Council.

Grant 2 – Minor Projects \$500 to \$2500.

Grant 3 – Major Projects over \$2500.

Grant 4 – Annual / Recurrent Funding.

A total of eight applications was received to the value \$13,223.33.

| Grant Type | Number | Amount |
|--------------------|----------|--------------------|
| 1 | 0 | \$0.00 |
| 2 | 4 | \$3,023.33 |
| 3 | 2 | \$6,000.00 |
| 4 | 2 | \$4,200.00 |
| Grand Total | 8 | \$13,223.33 |

Grant 1 (in-Kind) funding will be open throughout the year

A second round of Grant 2 - (Minor projects) funding will be open from 1st July 2022 to 30th September 2022.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

Local Government Act 1995.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Community Grant Policy

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil – 2022/23 Financial year

Submitted for 2022-23 Budget deliberations

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- 1.1 Community: Work collaboratively with local and regional service providers to engage the community as active citizens.
- 1.2 Community: Provide social and cultural activities for all members of the community.
- 1.4 Community: Support local volunteer organisations through initiatives that reduce volunteer fatigue and strengthen their resilience
- 5.1 Governance: Shire communication is consistent, engaging and responsive

5.3 Governance: Provide informed and transparent decision making that, meets our legal obligations, and the needs of our diverse community

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Policy and Grant Application forms were forwarded to all Sporting and Recreation Clubs via email and regular advertising was conducted in the Banksia Bulletin, Passion Sheet and via the Quairading Shire Facebook Page.

RISK ASSESSMENT

| | Option 1: |
|---------------------|---|
| Financial | Low Will reduce risk to Council and the clubs/organisations through better planning and delivery of projects supported by the Shire. |
| Health | Low |
| Reputation | Low |
| Operations | Low |
| Natural Environment | Low |

| Likelihood | Consequence | | | | |
|----------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Insignificant | Minor | Moderate | Major | Critical |
| Rare | LOW Accept the risk Routine management | LOW Accept the risk Routine management | LOW Accept the risk Routine management | MEDIUM Specific responsibility and treatment | HIGH Quarterly senior management review |
| Unlikely | LOW Accept the risk Routine management | LOW Accept the risk Routine management | MEDIUM Specific responsibility and treatment | MEDIUM Specific responsibility and treatment | HIGH Quarterly senior management review |
| Possible | LOW Accept the risk Routine management | MEDIUM Specific responsibility and treatment | MEDIUM Specific responsibility and treatment | HIGH Quarterly senior management review | HIGH Quarterly senior management review |
| Likely | MEDIUM Specific responsibility and treatment | MEDIUM Specific responsibility and treatment | HIGH Quarterly senior management review | HIGH Quarterly senior management review | EXTREME Monthly senior management review |
| Almost certain | MEDIUM Specific responsibility and treatment | MEDIUM Specific responsibility and treatment | HIGH Quarterly senior management review | EXTREME Monthly senior management review | EXTREME Monthly senior management review |

COMMENT

- Eight grant applications were received and assessed. Assistance was provided to a number of clubs to ensure the applications were completed correctly. All grant applications met the selection criteria outlined in the Grant Guidelines. The number of applications and amount requested in Round 1 has decreased compared to last year’s figures (13 applications for Round 1, 2021). The Bowling Club’s \$10,000 annual loan repayment ended in 2021 which has significantly reduced the overall requested figure (Grant 4 – Annual recurrent funding).
- A Grant Writing Seminar was facilitated by the Shire during February run by ‘Whitney Consulting’ which helped build capacity for clubs to complete competitive applications. It is planned to hold this workshop annually as part of the program. It has been raised that the Shire could consider running the Community Grants Program to be open all year round (similar to the Business Support Grants).

9.1 Work Health & Safety Act 2020

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Meeting Date: | 12 th April 2022 |
| Responsible Officer: | Nicole Gibbs (Chief Executive Officer) |
| Reporting Officer: | Nicole Gibbs (Chief Executive Officer) |
| Attachments: | Nil |
| Owner/Applicant: | Shire of Quairading |
| Disclosure of Interest: | Nil |

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

RECOMMENDATION: SP22-21/22

MOVED Cr Haythornthwaite SECONDED Cr Hayes

That the Strategic Planning Committee recommend to Council:-

That Council acknowledge the legal responsibility to follow the *WHS Act 2020* when:

- Engaging in any form of decision-making on behalf of the Shire; and
- Giving any direction to employees, contractors, rate payers or others on behalf of the Shire.

CARRIED 7/0

IN BRIEF

Western Australia has joined other states and territories (excluding Victoria) in adopting the national model work health and safety (WHS) laws.

The *Work Health and Safety Act 2020* (the Act) is the biggest overhaul of WHS laws in Western Australia in decades. The WA Act replaces the *Occupational Safety and Health Act 1984* and parts of some other legislation, including the *Mines Safety and Inspection Act 1994* and the *Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Resources Act 1967*.

The penalties for non-compliance with the Act are severe and include the potential for Council Members, Executive and other decision-makers to be sued for personal wealth and assets without the protection of insurance if the non-compliance is deemed to be negligent.

MATTER FOR CONSIDERATION

The severity of the penalties for non-compliance with the Act are extreme in terms of risk and so warrant Council consideration of the Act when:

- Engaging in any form of decision-making on behalf of the Shire; and
- Giving any direction to employees, contractors, rate payers or others on behalf of the Shire.

BACKGROUND

The proclamation of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2020* is the biggest overhaul of WHS laws in Western Australia in almost 30 years. With regards to local government applicability, the following inclusions are most significant:

Industrial Manslaughter

The most controversial difference is the inclusion of industrial manslaughter provisions in the WA Act. This inclusion follows significant public concern about workplace fatalities and the recommendations of two Commonwealth reviews. Under the Act industrial manslaughter is a criminal offence with no limitation period. Due to the seriousness of the offence it can only be prosecuted by the Director of Public Prosecutions. Only people 'Conducting a Business or Undertaking' (PCBUs) and their officers can be charged with industrial manslaughter. **Local government Councillors and local government executive employees are deemed to be PCBUs.**

Under section 30A the prosecution must establish that:

- The PCBU engaged in conduct (an act or omission) that caused the death of an individual;
- The conduct constituted a failure to comply with a health and safety duty; and
- The PCBU knew that the conduct was likely to result in death or serious harm and acted in disregard of that likelihood.

The offence carries severe penalties of up to:

- 20 years imprisonment and a fine of \$5 million for individuals, and
- A fine of \$10 million for body corporates.

Western Australia has followed the lead of the Australian Capital Territory, Queensland, Northern Territory and Victoria in introducing an industrial manslaughter offence.

Category 1 Offences

Category 1 offences attract the most severe penalties under the Act. A person commits a Category 1 offence if they engage in conduct that exposes a person to whom a duty is owed to a risk of death or serious injury or illness.

To successfully prosecute a Category 1 offence a prosecutor must prove that a failure to comply with a health and safety duty likely caused the death of, or serious harm to, an individual. 'Serious harm' includes an injury or illness that endangers or is likely to endanger the individual's life, or results in or is likely to result in permanent injury or harm to the individual's health.

Category 1 offences under the WA Act carry a maximum penalty of:

- Five years imprisonment and a fine of between \$340,000 and \$680,000 for individuals, and
- A fine of \$3.5 million for body corporates.

Prohibition on Insurance

Another significant departure in the Act is the prohibition on insurance policies and indemnities against fines. Under section 272A of the Act, penalties apply to:

- Those who insure or indemnify against fines under the Act;
- Those who are insured or indemnified against fines under the Act; and
- Those who pay or accept an indemnity for an offence under the Act.

The maximum penalty is:

- \$51,000 for individuals; and
- \$255,000 for body corporates.

New Duty of Care for WHS Service Providers

Section 26A imposes a specific duty of care on providers of WHS services. WHS service providers (e.g. external advisors and trainers) must ensure so far as is reasonably practicable that their services do not pose a health and safety risk to persons at the relevant workplace.

WHS Issue Resolution

The Act allows an inspector to attend a workplace to 'assist in resolving' and to 'make a decision resolving the issue'. The inspector must make a decision within two days or request an extension of time under section 82A of the Act.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

Workplace Health & Safety Act 2020

Local Government Act 1995

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Significant. Every Shire policy document will need to be reviewed and the new WHS provisions considered and applied accordingly.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Potentially 'Extreme' to both individuals and the Shire if compliance is not rigorously monitored and managed.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

3.2 Built Environment: Parks, gardens and social spaces are safe and encourage active, engaged and healthy lifestyles.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Nil.

RISK ASSESSMENT

| | Option 1: |
|---------------------|---|
| Financial | Potentially Extreme to both individuals and the Shire if compliance is not rigorously monitored and managed, breaches occur and penalties apply. Moderate at minimum as a result of the cost of increased compliance, including increased investment in health and safety. |
| Health | Potentially Extreme to both individuals and the Shire if compliance is not rigorously monitored and managed, breaches occur and penalties apply. |
| Reputation | Potentially Extreme to both individuals and the Shire if compliance is not rigorously monitored and managed, breaches occur and penalties apply. |
| Operations | Moderate at minimum as a result of the operational need for increased compliance, including increased activity in health and safety. |
| Natural Environment | Low |

| | Consequence | | | | |
|----------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| Likelihood | Insignificant | Minor | Moderate | Major | Critical |
| Rare | LOW Accept the risk Routine management | LOW Accept the risk Routine management | LOW Accept the risk Routine management | MEDIUM Specific responsibility and treatment | HIGH Quarterly senior management review |
| Unlikely | LOW Accept the risk Routine management | LOW Accept the risk Routine management | MEDIUM Specific responsibility and treatment | MEDIUM Specific responsibility and treatment | HIGH Quarterly senior management review |
| Possible | LOW Accept the risk Routine management | MEDIUM Specific responsibility and treatment | MEDIUM Specific responsibility and treatment | HIGH Quarterly senior management review | HIGH Quarterly senior management review |
| Likely | MEDIUM Specific responsibility and treatment | MEDIUM Specific responsibility and treatment | HIGH Quarterly senior management review | HIGH Quarterly senior management review | EXTREME Monthly senior management review |
| Almost certain | MEDIUM Specific responsibility and treatment | MEDIUM Specific responsibility and treatment | HIGH Quarterly senior management review | EXTREME Monthly senior management review | EXTREME Monthly senior management review |

COMMENT

Nil.

9.2 COVID-19 Policy: Clarification of definition of "Council Meeting"

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Meeting Date: | 12 th April 2022 |
| Responsible Officer: | Nicole Gibbs (Chief Executive Officer) |
| Reporting Officer: | Nicole Gibbs (Chief Executive Officer) |
| Attachments: | (i) COVID-19 Vaccination Policy |
| Owner/Applicant: | Shire of Quairading |
| Disclosure of Interest: | Nil |

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

RECOMMENDATION: SP23-21/22

MOVED Cr Cowcill SECONDED Cr Smith

That the Strategic Planning Committee recommend to Council: -

That Council adopt the reviewed and amended version of the COVID-19 Policy, noting the following insertion:

"Council Meetings: All meetings that an elected member (Councillor) attends in his or her capacity as an elected member (Councillor), unless the meeting is being held outdoors."

CARRIED 7/0

IN BRIEF

At the Ordinary Council Meeting of 31 March 2022, Council adopted the following Motion:

RESOLUTION: 138-21/22

MOVED Cr Stacey SECONDED Cr Hippisley

RECOMMENDATION: AR21 – 21/22

That the Audit and Risk Committee recommends to Council that Council adopts COVID-19 Policy (B) including end date of Policy in line with State and Federal Government directions.

CARRIED 6/2

The adopted COVID-19 Policy provides for all Shire of Quairading employees, contractors and volunteers to be fully vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus to work for the Shire. Councillors are not required to be vaccinated but can only attend Council meetings remotely. One Councillor has since requested a definition of "Council Meetings."

BACKGROUND

The Shire of Quairading is committed to its work (occupational), health and safety duty of care to ensure, as far as reasonably practicable, the health and safety of its workers and others in the workplace. It is acknowledged that COVID-19 is a highly transmissible and dangerous virus and that vaccination against COVID-19 is a safe and effective measure to minimise exposure to and spread of the virus.

The nature of our business is one where:

- (a) Workers are required to have close contact or to at least interact with people who are particularly vulnerable to the health impacts of COVID-19 (e.g. aged or unwell people entering the Shire buildings and/or public venues and/or receiving services; Medical Centre patients, hospital patients, school children).
- (b) There is frequent interaction between workers and other people such as customers, other workers or the public in the normal course of employment.
- (c) We are currently operating in an area with ongoing community transmission and heightened risk of exposure to COVID-19.
- (d) There is a public health order in place mandating the vaccination of workers operating in the medical, aged care, construction, maintenance, aquatics and ranger services industries.
- (e) The Shire has a comparatively smaller work force than other Shires and workers.

To this end, the Shire has determined that all workers covered by this policy are required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 as a necessary measure to ensure the safety of everyone in the workplace.

In addition to the vaccination requirements of this policy, workers are reminded of their obligations to comply with all other safety protocols, including:

- (a) Continued use of face masks;
- (b) Social distancing; and
- (c) Personal hygiene (e.g. washing hands).

MATTER FOR CONSIDERATION

Given that the State and Commonwealth Governments are in agreement with the World Health Organisation that COVID-19 is a highly transmissible and dangerous virus and that vaccination against COVID-19 is a safe and effective measure to minimise exposure to and spread of the virus, and given both levels of Government have embedded this acknowledgement in law, it is a requirement of local governments under the *Work Health & Safety Act 2020* to do all things reasonable to protect workers, Councillors and Shire residents from the impact of the virus. This includes by participating in attempting to eradicate the virus.

With an understanding of the local government's legislative responsibility and with direct reference to the adopted COVID-19 Policy, it is recommended that the COVID-19 Policy be amended to include the definition of "Council Meeting," this being:

"Council Meetings: All meetings that an elected member (Councillor) attends in his or her capacity as an elected member (Councillor), unless the meeting is being held outdoors"

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

Local Government Act 1995

Work Health & Safety Act 2020

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Amendment to adopted COVID-19 Policy.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- 1.3 Advocate for the provision of quality health services, health facilities and programs in the Shire.
- 2.4 Implement systems and processes that meet legislative and audit obligations.
- 5.3 Provide informed and transparent decision making that meets our legal obligations and the needs of our diverse community.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Nil

RISK ASSESSMENT

| | Option 1 | Retain Current Status |
|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Financial | Potentially Moderate | Potentially Extreme |
| Health | Potentially Moderate | Potentially Extreme |
| Reputation | Potentially Moderate | Potentially Extreme |
| Operations | Low | Low |
| Natural Environment | n/a | n/a |

| Likelihood | Consequence | | | | |
|----------------|--|---|---|---|---|
| | Insignificant | Minor | Moderate | Major | Critical |
| Rare | LOW Accept the risk Routine management | LOW Accept the risk Routine management | LOW Accept the risk Routine management | MEDIUM Specific responsibility and treatment | HIGH Quarterly senior management review |
| Unlikely | LOW Accept the risk Routine management | LOW Accept the risk Routine management | MEDIUM Specific responsibility and treatment | MEDIUM Specific responsibility and treatment | HIGH Quarterly senior management review |
| Possible | LOW Accept the risk Routine management | MEDIUM Specific responsibility and treatment | MEDIUM Specific responsibility and treatment | HIGH Quarterly senior management review | HIGH Quarterly senior management review |
| Likely | MEDIUM Specific responsibility and treatment | MEDIUM Specific responsibility and treatment | HIGH Quarterly senior management review | HIGH Quarterly senior management review | EXTREME Monthly senior management review |
| Almost certain | MEDIUM Specific responsibility and treatment | MEDIUM Specific responsibility and treatment | HIGH Quarterly senior management review | EXTREME Monthly senior management review | EXTREME Monthly senior management review |

COMMENT

Multiple Council members said that the COVID-19 Policy had already been moved and stated that elected members are only to attend Council meetings remotely if the Council member is unvaccinated. The new definition of “Council Meeting” was endorsed, providing for unvaccinated Councillors to attend meetings if they are held outdoors.

9.3 MicroGrid's

Cr Hippisley – Late Emerging Issue

Background

Cr Hippisley has been investigating the concept of a microgrid and how it might be utilised in Quairading. A microgrid is a small network of electricity users with a local source of supply and storage, usually attached to a centralized national grid but able to function independently.

Cr Hippisley provided the following train of thought for the benefit of members:

“Strategic thinking

- (a) We want to attract businesses and residents to town.
- (b) Microgrids are trendy:
 - They attract media attention
 - They are on the radar of State and Federal funding sources
- (c) Could solve the power choke problem for new businesses.

Quairading Advantages

- (a) More days of sunshine than Perth
- (b) Widespread solar adoption already
- (c) Space for more solar panels
- (d) Business community open to innovation
- (e) Receptive local government”

Ms Gibbs said she would arrange to meet with Cr Hippisley before the next Council Meeting to discuss the matter further. Cr Hippisley committed to further investigation into microgrids in preparation of the meeting.


ITEM 10 NEXT MEETING DATE

The next Strategic Planning Committee Meeting is scheduled to take place on Tuesday 9th August 2022 to be confirmed, commencing at 5.00 pm at the Council Chambers, 10 Jennaberring Road, Quairading.

ITEM 11 CLOSURE

There being no further business, the Chairperson closed the Meeting at 6.40pm.

I certify the Minutes of the Strategic Planning Committee Meeting held on 12th April 2022 were confirmed on 9th August 2022 as recorded.

Confirmed..........9/08/2022