



NOTICE

of

ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

pursuant to the provisions of section 84 of the *Local Government Act 1999*

to be held in the

KAROONDA EAST MURRAY

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

11 RAILWAY TERRACE KAROONDA

on

TUESDAY 21 JULY 2026 AT 7:30PM

SCOTT REARDON
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Issue Date: **17 JULY 2026**

MEMBERSHIP

Mayor Caroline Phillips – Presiding Member

Councillor Russell Norman
Councillor Simon Martin
Councillor Gerry Paay

Councillor Darren Zadow
Councillor Hannah Loller
Councillor Greg Turner

DISCLAIMER – The contents of this Agenda have yet to be considered by Members, and the recommendations herein may be altered or changed by the Members in the process of making the formal decision. For all final determinations please refer to the relevant Minutes from each respective meeting.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. OPENING OF MEETING	4
2. PRAYER AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY	4
3. ATTENDANCE	4
4. DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST	4
5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES	5
5.1 Ordinary Meeting of Council – 16 June 2026	5
6. BUSINESS ADJOURNED	5
7. PETITIONS	5
8. DEPUTATIONS	5
9. PRESENTATIONS	5
10. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME	5
11. MAYOR’S DIARY	5
11.1 Mayor’s Diary – 17 June 2026 to 21 July 2026	6
12. ELECTED MEMBER UPDATES	7
13. QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE	7
14. QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE	7
15. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE	7
16. MOTIONS WITH NOTICE	7
17. ITEMS FOR DECISION	7
17.1 Proposed FY27 Karoonda Tourist Park Fees & Charges	8
17.2 Principal Office Hours of Operation	19
17.3 Follow Up Murraylands Drought Survey	21
17.4 Chief Executive Officer Resignation and Termination of Residential	

Tenancy Agreement	
17.5 Murraylands & Riverlands Local Government Association Draft Annual Business Plan 2026-27	30
17.6 Lease Agreement & Alienation of Community Land – Halidon CFS	45
18. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION	49
18.1 Assets, Infrastructure & Regulatory Services Update	50
18.2 Council Resolution Action List	53
19. CORRESPONDENCE	58
20. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS	59
20.1 Interim Chief Executive Officer Arrangements (Verbal Report)	
20.2 Chief Executive Officer Recruitment Process	60
21. CLOSE OF MEETING	155
ANNEXURE A	156

AGENDA
ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL
TUESDAY 21 JULY 2026 AT 7:30PM

1. OPENING OF MEETING

2. PRAYER AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY

All mighty God we call upon you to grant your blessings upon this Council. Direct and guide its deliberations to the advancement of your glory and for the true wellbeing of the people of our area. AMEN.

We acknowledge that the land we meet upon today is the traditional lands of the Ngarkat People, who are part of the First Peoples of the River Murray and Mallee Region. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging and acknowledge and respect their deep spiritual and cultural connection to Country.

3. ATTENDANCE

4. DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

In line with Section 74 of the Local Government Act 1999

- 1) A member of a council who has an interest in a matter before the Council must disclose the interest to the Council.
- 2) A member in making a disclosure under subsection (1) must provide full and accurate details of the relevant interest.
- 3) A disclosure made under subsection (1) must be recorded in the minutes of the council (including details of the relevant interest)

Members to advise of any Conflict of Interest Declarations

<i>Item No & Title</i>	
<i>Elected Member Name</i>	
<i>Nature of Interest</i>	
<i>The manner in which conflict will be dealt with</i>	
<i>Result of Decision</i>	

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

5.1 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD 16 JUNE 2026

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 16 June 2026 have been circulated and are also attached to this Agenda as **ANNEXURE A**.

RECOMMENDATION

5.1.1 *That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 16 June 2026 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.*

6. BUSINESS ADJOURNED

Nil.

7. PETITIONS

Nil.

8. DEPUTATIONS

Nil.

9. PRESENTATIONS

Nil.

10. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Nil.

11. MAYOR'S DIARY



Information Report Item Number **11**

MAYOR'S DIARY

Report Date: 21 July 2026
Reporting Officer: Executive Support Officer, Lexie O'Loughlin
Responsible Manager: Chief Executive Officer, Scott Reardon

Report Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an overview of the Mayor's Diary for the period between 17 June 2026 and 21 July 2026.

Background

As the principal representative of the District Council of Karoonda East Murray, the Mayor attends a variety of events, meetings, initiatives and workshops. This report outlines the Mayor's key activities and attendances for the period between 17 June 2026 and 21 July 2026.

Mayor Phillips

Date	Meeting	Attendees
18 June 2026	MRLGA Board & CEO Network – Timing of LG Elections	MRLGA Mayors and CEOs.
26 June 2026	LGA President's Webinar	The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor of Adelaide Dr Jane Lomax-Smith and South Australian Mayors.
7 July 2026	Meeting with CEO Scott Reardon	CEO Scott Reardon.
8 July 2026	Special Briefing Session	Elected Members.
21 July 2026	SAROC Pre-Meeting Discussion	SAROC Committee Members.
21 July 2026	Annual Business Plan & Budget Public Meeting	Elected Members, CEO Scott Reardon and ESO Lexie O'Loughlin.
21 July 2026	Ordinary Meeting of Council	Elected Members, CEO Scott Reardon and ESO Lexie O'Loughlin.

Recommendation

11.1 That Council receive and note the report titled 'Mayor's Diary' dated 21 July 2026, covering the period between 17 June 2026 and 21 July 2026.



Decision Report Item Number **17.1**

PROPOSED FY27 KAROONDA TOURIST PARK FEES & CHARGES

Report Date: 21 July 2026
Reporting Officer: Economic Development, Tourism & Communications Officer,
Sarah Murdoch
Chief Executive Officer, Scott Reardon
Responsible Manager: Chief Executive Officer, Scott Reardon

Report Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with supporting information about the Karoonda Tourist Park (**KTP**) occupancy statistics and income vs expenditure to assist in deliberations of the FY27 Fees & Charges.

Executive Summary

Each year Council reviews and sets the fees and charges for services and activities within its jurisdiction to ensure they align with budgetary requirements and community expectations. Administration has undertaken a review of the KTP Fees & Charges for FY27 and at the Ordinary Meeting of 16 June 2026 proposed a blanket increase of 4.9% (All Adelaide March CPI). This resulted in a proposed \$1 increase to powered site fees, however based on Council's anecdotal concerns that fees for powered sites were too high, Council resolved (Resolution **CNC080/06/26**) to:

“defer consideration of the proposed FY27 Tourist Park Fees & Charges [...] until the July 2026 Ordinary Meeting of Council pending the provision of occupancy statistics and profit and loss statement”.

A review has since been undertaken and while it is acknowledged the KTP data for powered sites indicate a reduction in occupancy rates compared between the FY25 and FY26, based on regional and State statistics the reduced occupancy rates is not isolated to Karoonda, and it is reasonable to suggest that the decline in occupancy is primarily based on a combination of factors, those being reduced demand, shorter stays, lower site availability and reduced travel due to recent global impacts and cost-of-living pressures.

Additionally, based on the provisions of the recently adopted *Fees & Charges Policy*, Council should consider either adopting a 'market rate' or 'full cost recovery' approach to setting fees and charges for the KTP as it is a profit-making activity, and to ensure Council remains compliant with its own Policy provisions.

Discussion

Key Statistics

Comparative occupancy rates for FY25 vs FY26 indicate that powered site occupancy rates for full years (July to June) were significantly down from 63% in FY25 to 35% in FY26 (Attachments A & B) – from a respective 792 bookings to 567 bookings. Average length of stays has also become shorter, from 3.4 nights in FY25 to 2.4 nights in FY26.

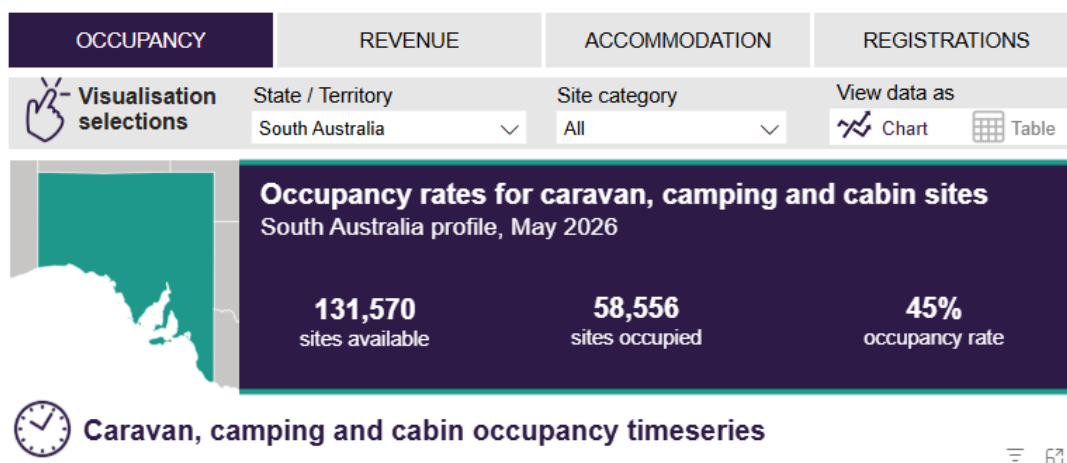
However, when isolating a comparative analysis to between July to December of each respective financial year (due to notable global impacts and increase cost-of-living pressures experienced between January and June 2026) occupancy rates for powered sites only reduces from 61% in FY25 to 46% in FY26 (Attachment C & D) – from a respective 384 bookings to 332 bookings. Average length of stays has also become shorter, from 3.5 nights in FY25 to 2.7 nights in FY26.

Key Impacting Factors

- Internal Factors:
 - In FY26, three (3) powered sites were offline for grass maintenance between 21 October 2025 and 3 February 2026 (inclusive), which resulted in less powered site stock available to generate bookings.
- External factors:
 - Farm Fair & Show not running in 2026 contributed to softer powered site occupancy rate results. In 2025, the Farm Fair & Show event generated 37 occupied powered site nights across the weekend, typically through 2 - 3 nights stays. This wasn't present in 2026.
 - 2024 continued to benefit from SA Government flood recovery initiatives, encouraging people to travel to the river regions. This stimulus was not present in 2025, with government tourism promotion efforts instead focused on the "Coast is Calling" campaign in response to algal bloom impacts.
 - General cost-of-living pressures start to influence behaviours in 2025-26.
 - The major global fuel issues in 2026 effectively started on 28 February 2026, when conflict in the Middle East led to the shutdown of the Strait of Hormuz. Following which:
 - Early March 2026: oil prices jumped sharply when markets opened after the strikes.
 - March 2026 overall: recorded one of the largest monthly oil price increases ever.
 - Countries began experiencing fuel shortages, panic buying, and supply disruptions from March onward.

Occupancy Comparisons

Tourism Research Australia data indicates caravan park occupancy rates in South Australia for the 2025 calendar year sat at approx. 45%.¹



The occupancy rates for the KTP for the same period (viz 2025 calendar year) for powered sites, however, shows KTP experienced higher occupancy rates than the State average at 55.89% (Attachment E).

Average Daily Fees & Charges

Additional data obtained from the Caravan Industry of Australia (March 2025) indicates that the Average Daily Rate (**ADR**) for powered sites across South Australia is \$47.00.

POWERED SITES							
State	Occupancy	Annual PPT Change	RevPAR	Annual % Change	ADR	Annual % Change	Sample
NSW	41%	-11	\$22	-30%	\$52	-12%	162
NT	11%	1	\$4	-8%	\$38	-14%	5
QLD	34%	-11	\$18	-32%	\$53	-8%	89
SA	60%	-8	\$29	-16%	\$47	-5%	42
TAS	77%	-2	\$41	0%	\$53	2%	13
VIC	52%	-1	\$29	-12%	\$56	-10%	79
WA	51%	0	\$28	-3%	\$56	-3%	58
Total	44%	-7	\$23	-21%	\$53	-8%	448

Additionally, the same data indicates that the:

- Murray River, Lakes & Coorong (**MRLC**) benchmark for powered sites occupancy was 46%.

¹ <https://www.tra.gov.au/en/tourism-statistics/caravan-and-camping-data#ref2>

- MRLC recorded a larger occupancy drop vs SA overall in part due to the SA Government shift in disaster recovery incentive initiatives.
- ADR benchmark average daily rate for MRLC is \$44.

 POWERED SITES							
South Australia	Occup.	Annual PPT Change	RevPAR	Annual % Change	ADR	Annual % Change	Sample
Adelaide	85%	-1	\$47	3%	\$55	5%	9
Adelaide Hills	Low Sample, Not Reported						2
Barossa	Low Sample, Not Reported						1
Clare Valley	Low Sample, Not Reported						1
Eyre Peninsula	93%	1	\$36	-0%	\$38	-1%	5
Fleurieu Peninsula	37%	-15	\$19	-34%	\$52	-6%	5
Flinders Ranges and Outback	Low Sample, Not Reported						3
Kangaroo Island	Low Sample, Not Reported						1
Limestone Coast	Low Sample, Not Reported						3
Murray River, Lakes and Coorong	46%	-18	\$20	-27%	\$44	1%	4
Riverland	42%	-9	\$20	-32%	\$47	-18%	4
Yorke Peninsula	52%	-13	\$26	-27%	\$49	-9%	4
Total	60%	-8	\$29	-16%	\$47	-5%	42

Based on this data, KTP current average daily rate for powered sites (\$25) is significantly lower than the benchmark market rates for both the Murray River, Lakes & Coorong (43% lower), and State (46% lower) averages.

Noting both this and the FY26 expenses for the operating the KTP totalled \$44,314.25 and that the income received from KTP stays only totalled \$28,912.23 (Ex GST), it can be argued that KTP is not presently operating on a cost recovery basis.

Comparative Sites

In order to provide a further comparison, the following table outlines a sample of Murraylands Caravan Parks ADR for powered sites:

Caravan Park	Powered Site Fee	Additional Fees
Big 4 Murray Bridge	\$48 per night (2 guests)	Additional guest = \$10
Avoca Dell Caravan Park	\$42 per night (2 guests)	Additional guest = \$15
Waterfront Holiday Park	\$45 per night (2 guests)	Additional guest = \$20
Wellington Caravan Park	\$40 per night (2 guests)	-
Coonalpyn Caravan Park	\$20 per night	Shower = \$5 per use
Karoonda Tourist Park	\$25 per night	Nil.

The following table outline a sample of Murraylands Caravan Parks ADR for cabins:

Caravan Park	Standard / Studio Cabin	Deluxe Cabin
Big 4 Murray Bridge	\$140 per night (2 guests)	\$215 per night (2 guests)
Avoca Dell Caravan Park	\$135 per night (2 guests)	\$169 per night (2 guests)
Waterfront Holiday Park	\$135 per night (2 guests)	\$160 per night (2 guests)
Wellington Caravan Park	\$120 per night (2 guests)	\$145 per night (2 guests)
Coonalpyn Caravan Park	N/A	N/A
Karoonda Tourist Park	\$115 per night (2 guests)	\$155 per night (2 guests)

Peak Periods

Based on NewBook data from 2024, 2025, 2026, KTP’s peak operating seasons and strongest months are:

- **Seasons**
 - Spring (Sep-Nov) 62% busiest.
 - Autumn (Mar - May) 60% second busiest.
 - Winter (June - Aug) 53% third busiest.
 - Summer (Dec - Feb) 35% quietest
- **Strongest Months**
 - October: 75%
 - April: 61%
 - May: 60%
 - March: 59%
 - November: 57%

Financial Implications

While it is noted that KTP may not have similar facilities to other Caravan Parks across the State, based on these factors and based on the provisions outlined in Council’s current *Fees & Charges Policy* adopted 16 June 2026 (Resolution **CNC75/06/26**) which clearly states:

*“Where fees and charges are not statutory, Council will apply the principles of user-pays and, where practicable, seek to recover the full cost of providing the service or goods”;*²

and where a service is:

*“in competition with that provided by another Council”;*³ *“the service is a profit-making activity”;*⁴ and/or where a *“service benefits particular users”;*⁵

² District Council of Karoonda East Murray Fees & Charges Policy cl 2.

³ District Council of Karoonda East Murray Fees & Charges Policy cl 3.2.1.1.

⁴ District Council of Karoonda East Murray Fees & Charges Policy cl 3.2.1.2.

⁵ District Council of Karoonda East Murray Fees & Charges Policy cl 3.2.2.1.

fees and charges should be set at either ‘Market Rate’ or ‘Full Cost Recovery’.

Based on this, in considering the adoption of fees and charges for the KTP, Council should consider increasing the previously proposed 4.9% CPI increase (equating to a \$1 increase) simply to ensure KTP operates on a reasonable cost-recovery model, and to ensure Council remains compliant with its own Policy provisions.

The adjustments to the annual fees & charges are necessary to ensure the sustainability of key services, maintain operational efficiency, and meet increasing costs in several areas. The proposed fee fluctuations are carefully considered and aligned with community needs and financial objectives, while also leveraging Council commercial activities.

Community Implications

There are no perceived community implications associated with this report.

Governance / Risk Implications

Should Council adhere to the provisions of its Fees & Charges Policy there are no perceived governance-based implications associated with this report, and the risk associated with this report has been assessed as low. However, should Council determine to deviate from the provisions of the Policy, Council will be required to provide reasonable justification to the community as to why the deviation occurred.

Recommendation

17.1.1 That Council receive and note the report titled ‘Proposed FY27 Karoonda Tourist Park Fees & Charges’ and dated 21 July 2026.

17.1.2 That Council resolve to adopt a XX% increase to Karoonda Tourist Park Fees & Charges across all categories of accommodation types.

Attachment

Attachment A	Occupancy Report – 1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025
Attachment B	Occupancy Report – 1 July 2025 – 30 June 2026
Attachment C	Occupancy Report – 1 July 2024 – 31 December 2024
Attachment D	Occupancy Report – 1 July 2025 – 31 December 2025
Attachment E	Occupancy Report – 2025 Calendar Year



Occupancy Statistical Data									
Category	Nights Available	Nights Occupied	Nights Empty	Bookings	Guest Nights	Average Booking Length	Occupancy Percentage	Last Years Occupancy	Difference
Powered Site - Grass (8 Sites)	2798	1744	1054	548	2588	3.18	62.33%	20.23%	+42.1%
Powered Site - Gravel (4 Sites)	1459	935	524	244	1160	3.83	64.08%	25.68%	+38.4%
Total (12 Sites)	4257 Nights	2679 Nights	1578 Nights	792 Bookings	3748 Guest Nights	3.38 Nights	62.93%	22.05%	+40.88%

Occupancy Rate Quoted & Repeat Billing Data (Projections)								
Category	Bookings	Booking Length	Projected Earnings (GST Inc)	Projected Earnings (GST Ex)	Projected Earnings per Booking (GST Inc)	Projected Earnings per Booking (GST Ex)	Projected Earnings per Occupied Night (GST Inc)	Projected Earnings per Occupied Night (GST Ex)
Powered Site - Grass (8 Sites)	548	1744 Nights	\$30,038.16 CR	\$27,304.66 CR	\$54.81 CR	\$49.83 CR	\$17.22 CR	\$15.66 CR
Powered Site - Gravel (4 Sites)	244	935 Nights	\$14,123.96 CR	\$12,838.04 CR	\$57.89 CR	\$52.61 CR	\$15.11 CR	\$13.73 CR
Total (12 Sites)	792 Bookings	2679 Nights	\$44,162.12 CR	\$40,142.70 CR	\$55.76 CR	\$50.69 CR	\$16.48 CR	\$14.98 CR

12. ELECTED MEMBER UPDATES

13. QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

14. QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

Nil.

15. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

16. MOTIONS WITH NOTICE

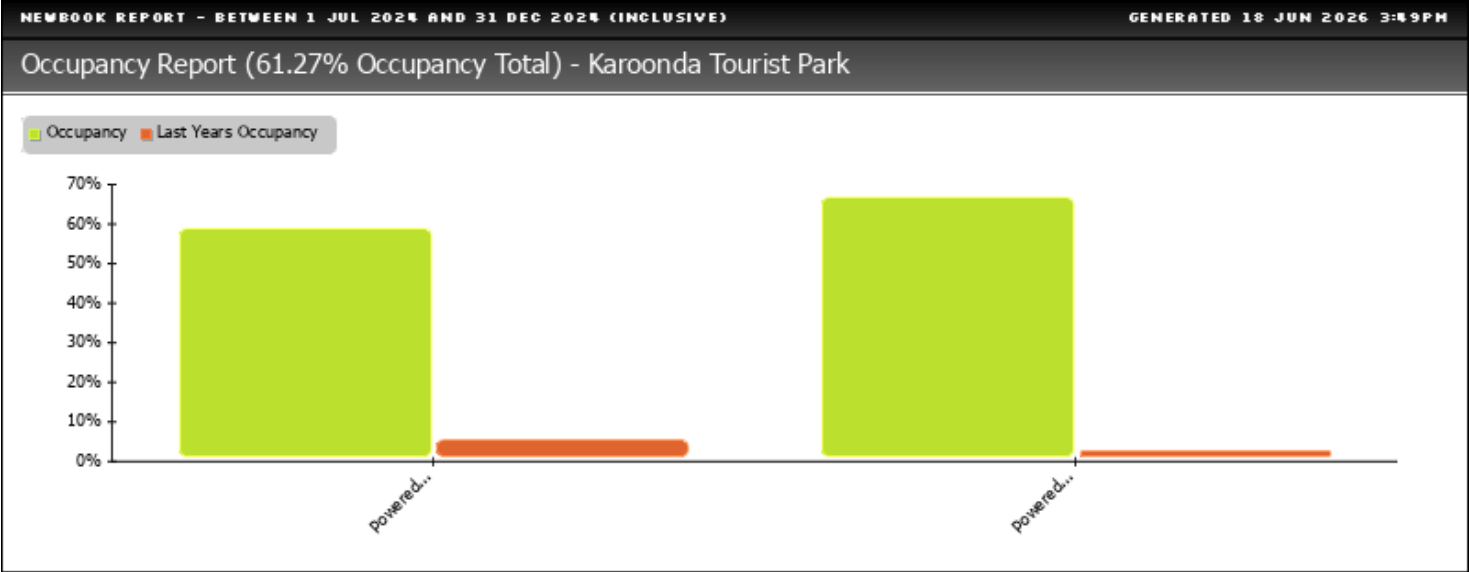
Nil.

17. ITEMS FOR DECISION



Occupancy Statistical Data									
Category	Nights Available	Nights Occupied	Nights Empty	Bookings	Guest Nights	Average Booking Length	Occupancy Percentage	Last Years Occupancy	Difference
Powered Site - Grass (8 Sites)	2487	937	1550	361	1493	2.60	37.67%	61.68%	-24.01%
Powered Site - Gravel (4 Sites)	1441	441	1000	206	622	2.14	30.60%	64.08%	-33.48%
Total (12 Sites)	3928 Nights	1378 Nights	2550 Nights	567 Bookings	2115 Guest Nights	2.43 Nights	35.08%	62.50%	-27.42%

Occupancy Rate Quoted & Repeat Billing Data (Projections)								
Category	Bookings	Booking Length	Projected Earnings (GST Inc)	Projected Earnings (GST Ex)	Projected Earnings per Booking (GST Inc)	Projected Earnings per Booking (GST Ex)	Projected Earnings per Occupied Night (GST Inc)	Projected Earnings per Occupied Night (GST Ex)
Powered Site - Grass (8 Sites)	361	937 Nights	\$21,670.00 CR	\$19,702.16 CR	\$60.03 CR	\$54.58 CR	\$23.13 CR	\$21.03 CR
Powered Site - Gravel (4 Sites)	206	441 Nights	\$10,129.97 CR	\$9,210.07 CR	\$49.17 CR	\$44.71 CR	\$22.97 CR	\$20.88 CR
Total (12 Sites)	567 Bookings	1378 Nights	\$31,799.97 CR	\$28,912.23 CR	\$56.08 CR	\$50.99 CR	\$23.08 CR	\$20.98 CR



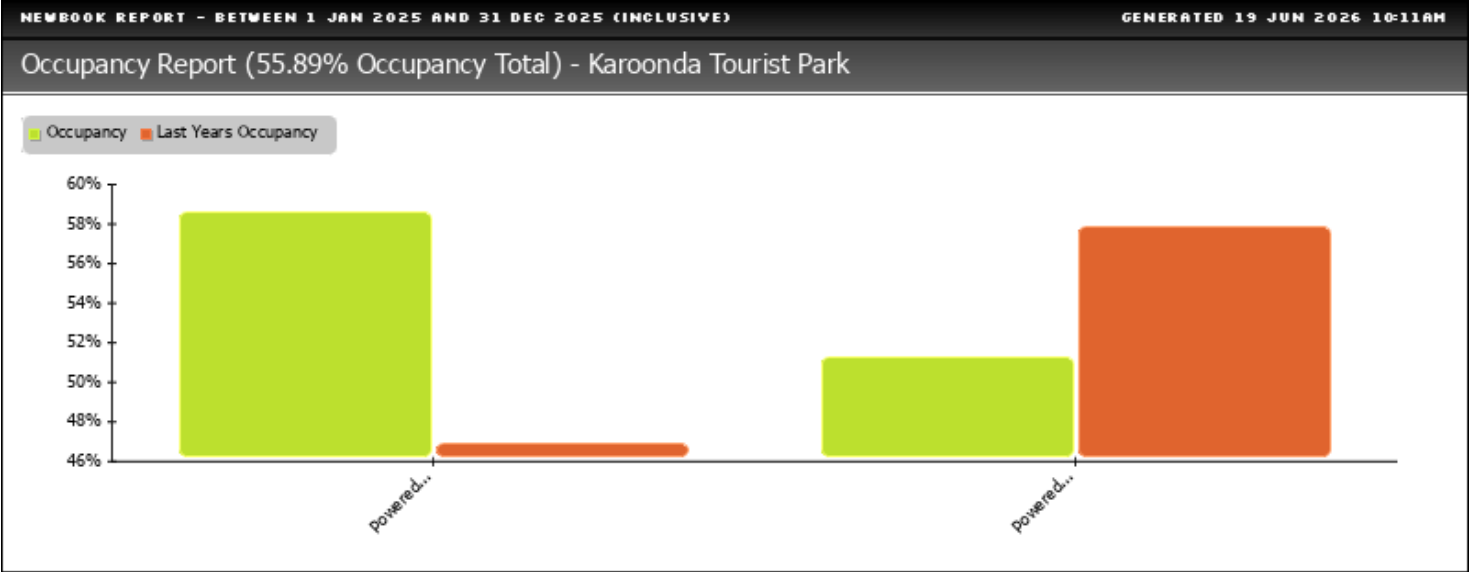
Occupancy Statistical Data									
Category	Nights Available	Nights Occupied	Nights Empty	Bookings	Guest Nights	Average Booking Length	Occupancy Percentage	Last Years Occupancy	Difference
Powered Site - Grass (8 Sites)	1452	851	601	266	1110	3.20	58.60%	5.43%	+53.17%
Powered Site - Gravel (4 Sites)	735	489	246	118	602	4.14	66.53%	2.58%	+63.95%
Total (12 Sites)	2187 Nights	1340 Nights	847 Nights	384 Bookings	1712 Guest Nights	3.49 Nights	61.27%	4.48%	+56.79%

Occupancy Rate Quoted & Repeat Billing Data (Projections)								
Category	Bookings	Booking Length	Projected Earnings (GST Inc)	Projected Earnings (GST Ex)	Projected Earnings per Booking (GST Inc)	Projected Earnings per Booking (GST Ex)	Projected Earnings per Occupied Night (GST Inc)	Projected Earnings per Occupied Night (GST Ex)
Powered Site - Grass (8 Sites)	266	851 Nights	\$14,650.00 CR	\$13,316.86 CR	\$55.08 CR	\$50.06 CR	\$17.22 CR	\$15.65 CR
Powered Site - Gravel (4 Sites)	118	489 Nights	\$6,856.27 CR	\$6,231.81 CR	\$58.10 CR	\$52.81 CR	\$14.02 CR	\$12.74 CR
Total (12 Sites)	384 Bookings	1340 Nights	\$21,506.27 CR	\$19,548.67 CR	\$56.01 CR	\$50.91 CR	\$16.05 CR	\$14.59 CR



Occupancy Statistical Data									
Category	Nights Available	Nights Occupied	Nights Empty	Bookings	Guest Nights	Average Booking Length	Occupancy Percentage	Last Years Occupancy	Difference
Powered Site - Grass (8 Sites)	1183	589	594	211	921	2.79	49.78%	58.53%	-8.75%
Powered Site - Gravel (4 Sites)	735	301	434	121	404	2.49	40.95%	66.53%	-25.58%
Total (12 Sites)	1918	890 Nights	1028 Nights	332 Bookings	1325 Guest Nights	2.68 Nights	46.40%	61.22%	-14.82%

Occupancy Rate Quoted & Repeat Billing Data (Projections)								
Category	Bookings	Booking Length	Projected Earnings (GST Inc)	Projected Earnings (GST Ex)	Projected Earnings per Booking (GST Inc)	Projected Earnings per Booking (GST Ex)	Projected Earnings per Occupied Night (GST Inc)	Projected Earnings per Occupied Night (GST Ex)
Powered Site - Grass (8 Sites)	211	589 Nights	\$13,395.00 CR	\$12,178.53 CR	\$63.48 CR	\$57.72 CR	\$22.74 CR	\$20.68 CR
Powered Site - Gravel (4 Sites)	121	301 Nights	\$6,789.97 CR	\$6,173.35 CR	\$56.12 CR	\$51.02 CR	\$22.56 CR	\$20.51 CR
Total (12 Sites)	332 Bookings	890 Nights	\$20,184.97 CR	\$18,351.88 CR	\$60.80 CR	\$55.28 CR	\$22.68 CR	\$20.62 CR



Occupancy Statistical Data									
Category	Nights Available	Nights Occupied	Nights Empty	Bookings	Guest Nights	Average Booking Length	Occupancy Percentage	Last Years Occupancy	Difference
Powered Site - Grass (8 Sites)	2529	1482	1047	492	2399	3.01	58.60%	46.86%	+11.74%
Powered Site - Gravel (4 Sites)	1459	747	712	246	962	3.04	51.19%	57.82%	-6.63%
Total (12 Sites)	3988 Nights	2229 Nights	1759 Nights	738 Bookings	3361 Guest Nights	3.02 Nights	55.89%	50.53%	+5.36%

Occupancy Rate Quoted & Repeat Billing Data (Projections)								
Category	Bookings	Booking Length	Projected Earnings (GST Inc)	Projected Earnings (GST Ex)	Projected Earnings per Booking (GST Inc)	Projected Earnings per Booking (GST Ex)	Projected Earnings per Occupied Night (GST Inc)	Projected Earnings per Occupied Night (GST Ex)
Powered Site - Grass (8 Sites)	492	1482 Nights	\$28,783.16 CR	\$26,166.33 CR	\$58.50 CR	\$53.18 CR	\$19.42 CR	\$17.66 CR
Powered Site - Gravel (4 Sites)	246	747 Nights	\$14,057.66 CR	\$12,779.58 CR	\$57.14 CR	\$51.95 CR	\$18.82 CR	\$17.11 CR
Total (12 Sites)	738 Bookings	2229 Nights	\$42,840.82 CR	\$38,945.91 CR	\$58.05 CR	\$52.77 CR	\$19.22 CR	\$17.47 CR



Decision Report Item Number **17.2**

PRINCIPAL OFFICE HOURS OF OPERATION

Report Date: 21 July 2026
Reporting Officer: Executive Support Officer, Tamikha Ross
Chief Executive Officer, Scott Reardon
Responsible Manager: Chief Executive Officer, Scott Reardon

Report Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's support to amend the formalised operational closure times of the District Council of Karoonda East Murray's (**Council**) Principal Office to facilitate revised whole-of-staff meeting and training times, which facilitate organisational discussions regarding key Council actions, planning, interdepartmental coordination and staff development.

Discussion

Pursuant to the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1999* (the **Act**),¹ a council must nominate a place as its Principal Office which must be open to the public for business purposes during times determined by way of Council Resolution.

At the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 13 May 2025, Council resolved (Resolution 17.3.2) to

“adopt the revised opening hours of the District Council of Karoonda East Murray’s Principal Office, those being Monday to Friday between 9am and 5pm, with the exception of every Wednesday following an Ordinary Meeting of Council when the Principal Office is open between 9am and 2pm”.

Due to revised staffing rosters and new proposed times for whole-of-staff meetings to maximise attendance, Administration now seeks Council's endorsement to revise the Council's Principal Office hours as follows:

- Monday to Friday between 9am and 5pm, with the exception of every Wednesday following an Ordinary Meeting of Council when the Principal Office is closed between 1pm and 2:30pm to facilitate whole of staff meetings and/or training.

Should Council support the recommendations of this report, Administration will advise the public of the revised Principal Office hours as outlined above.

¹ *Local Government Act 1999* s 45(1)&(2).

Financial Implications

There are no perceived financial implications associated with this report.

Community Implications

Minimal impact is anticipated as the Principal Office already closes on Wednesdays following an Ordinary Meeting of Council from 2pm to conduct staff meetings and training. The recommendations of this report will reduce the amount of time the Principal Office is closed to the community.

Governance Implications

There are no perceived governance-based implications associated with this report.

Recommendation

- 17.2.1** *That Council receive and note the report titled 'Principal Office Hours of Operation' and dated 21 July 2026.*
- 17.2.2** *That Council endorse and adopt the revised opening hours of the District Council of Karoonda East Murray's Principal Office, those being Monday to Friday between 9am and 5pm, with the exception of every Wednesday following an Ordinary Meeting of Council when the Principal Office is closed between 1pm and 2:30pm to facilitate whole of staff meetings and/or training.*



Decision Report Item Number **17.3**

FOLLOW UP MURRAYLANDS REGION DROUGHT SURVEY RESULTS 2026

Report Date: 21 July 2026
Reporting Officers: Community Development Officer, Kate Waters
Chief Executive Officer, Scott Reardon
Responsible Manager: Chief Executive Officer, Scott Reardon

Report Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with a thematic analysis of the results of the *Follow Up Murraylands Region Drought Survey 2026* (the **Survey**).

Background / Discussion

At the Ordinary Meeting of 20 January 2026, Council resolved (Resolution **CNC008/01/26** – Moved: Cr Norman / Seconded: Cr Zadow):

‘That Council endorse the release of the Follow Up Murraylands Region Drought Survey for a period of not less than 21 days, with a thematic analysis of the survey findings to be presented back to Council at a future meeting’.

As such, the Survey was released on SurveyMonkey by all participating councils from approximately 10 February and closed on 6 March 2026.

In accordance with Council resolution **CNC008/01/26** a thematic analysis of the Survey findings specific to Karoonda is outlined in this report. A copy of the Survey results were forwarded to Council Members separately.

Thematic Analysis

Executive Summary

The Survey presents a 12-month follow-up survey of drought impacts within the District Council of Karoonda East Murray (**DCKEM**), comparing 2025 and 2026 responses. The survey received 43 responses in 2025 and 29 responses in 2026 and provides a detailed picture of ongoing drought recovery challenges.

The overwhelming theme emerging from the Survey is that conditions have improved slightly from the previous year, but the district remains under significant economic, agricultural and social stress. Respondents consistently describe the impacts as cumulative, reflecting three consecutive years of below-average seasonal conditions. While frost impacts reduced

and some seasonal improvements were reported, rainfall deficits, financial pressure, business uncertainty and community fatigue remain major concerns.

Theme 1: Prolonged Drought Remains the Dominant Challenge

Although 66% of respondents reported some seasonal improvement, drought conditions continue to be viewed as an ongoing multi-year event rather than a single poor season. Respondents repeatedly referred to "three years of drought", "ongoing dry conditions" and a continuing lack of recovery capacity. Key observations:

- 91% identified rainfall deficit as a continuing challenge.
- Rain remained the most frequently mentioned solution or support requirement.
- Many respondents believe recovery will take several years even under improved conditions.

The Survey suggests that respondents see current issues not as an isolated event, but as the cumulative effects of multiple poor seasons.

Theme 2: Agricultural Production Continues to Contract

A strong theme is the scaling back of agricultural activity to manage risk and survive prolonged dry conditions. Key findings:

- Stock numbers continue to decline across most businesses.
- 74% reported reducing livestock numbers.
- Sheep numbers have fallen substantially since 2024.
- 62% reported reducing stocking capacity.
- 59% reported changing cropping rotations.

Respondents identified:

- Lack of feed as the primary reason for stock reductions.
- Inability to afford feed as the second most significant cause.

This demonstrates businesses are not only responding to seasonal conditions but structurally adjusting farming systems.

Theme 3: Severe Financial Stress and Cash Flow Constraints

Financial distress is one of the strongest and most consistent themes throughout the Survey. Key findings:

- The need to access additional finance remains the most reported financial pressure.
- Inability to pay accounts on time was the second highest concern.
- Almost half of respondents continue seeking off-farm income.
- Half of respondents reported banks are imposing stricter lending requirements.

Respondents consistently requested:

- Rate relief.
- Interest rate subsidies.
- Low-interest or no-interest loans.
- Assistance with cash flow.

The Survey indicates that many businesses remain operational but financially weakened, with reduced resilience to future shocks.

Theme 4: Community-Wide Economic Impacts

Respondents consistently emphasised that drought impacts extend far beyond farms. Common comments included:

- "No spending in local shops."
- "Affects all businesses."
- Reduced spending on machinery, maintenance and discretionary purchases.
- Reduced participation in sporting and community activities.

A clear multiplier effect emerges:

1. Reduced farm income.
2. Reduced business expenditure.
3. Reduced turnover for local businesses.
4. Reduced community activity and vibrancy.

Respondents view drought as a district-wide economic issue rather than solely an agricultural problem.

Theme 5: Mental Fatigue, Burnout and Community Morale

Mental wellbeing emerged as a significant concern. Key findings:

- 78% reported financial stress.
- 78% reported mental fatigue and burnout.
- 44% reported declining community morale.

Respondents described:

- Emotional exhaustion.
- Ongoing uncertainty.
- Stress from hand-feeding livestock.
- Fatigue from managing prolonged adverse conditions.

The Survey suggests recovery challenges are psychological as well as financial.

Theme 6: Low to Moderate Confidence in Recovery

While some optimism remains, confidence in recovery remains fragile. Key findings:

- 38% were only somewhat confident their business would recover.
- 24% were not confident of recovery.
- 31% estimated recovery would take 3–5 years.
- 24% estimated recovery would take more than 5 years.

This indicates many producers are planning on a long-term recovery pathway even if seasonal conditions improve.

Theme 7: Broad Support for Practical Financial Assistance

Respondents clearly prioritised practical economic assistance over additional programs or administration.

Most requested supports included:

- Hay and fodder assistance.
- PIRSA On-Farm Infrastructure Grants.
- Financial support measures.
- Reduction in overhead costs.
- Freight subsidies.
- Interest subsidies.
- Council rate relief.

A recurring sentiment was frustration with complex eligibility requirements and administrative barriers that prevented producers accessing support.

Theme 8: Strong Demand for Cost Relief

Perhaps the strongest advocacy theme concerns reducing costs imposed on farming businesses. Recurring requests included:

- Reduced council rates.
- Rate freezes.
- Reduced government fees and charges.
- Lower regulatory burden.
- Interest rate relief.
- Lower input costs.

Respondents frequently expressed the view that assistance should focus on reducing unavoidable costs rather than creating additional administrative processes.

Theme 9: Importance of Community Connection

Although financial support dominates responses, respondents also value community resilience activities. Frequently requested initiatives included:

- Community gatherings.
- Educational workshops.
- Wellbeing events.
- Support for sporting clubs and volunteer organisations.
- Support for local infrastructure.

These responses indicate that maintaining social connection is seen as an important component of drought recovery.

Strategic Conclusions

The Survey reveals five overarching conclusions:

1. Drought impacts remain severe despite some seasonal improvement. Respondents largely believe recovery has not yet begun in earnest.
2. Financial sustainability is now a greater concern than immediate production losses. Cash flow, borrowing capacity and operating costs dominate responses.
3. The economic impact extends throughout the broader community. Reduced farm profitability is affecting businesses, clubs and community organisations.
4. Mental wellbeing pressures are significant and widespread. Burnout and financial stress are recurring themes.
5. Respondents favour practical, direct assistance measures. Cost relief, financial assistance, fodder support and infrastructure investment are viewed as more valuable than additional consultation or administration.

Overall, the Survey paints a picture of a community that remains resilient but is experiencing prolonged economic, social and emotional strain from consecutive years of drought conditions, with recovery likely to require sustained support over the medium to long term.

Recommendation

17.3.1 *That Council receive and note the report titled “Follow Up Murraylands Region Drought Survey Results 2026” and dated 21 July 2026.*

17.3.2 *That Council direct Administration to undertake the following action(s):*

- _____



Decision Report Item Number **17.4**

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RESIGNATION AND TERMINATION OF RESIDENTIAL TENANCY AGREEMENT

Report Date: 21 July 2026
Reporting Officer: Chief Executive Officer, Scott Reardon
Responsible Manager: Chief Executive Officer, Scott Reardon

Report Purpose

The purpose of this report is for Council to receive and note the Chief Executive Officer Mr Scott Reardon's (the **CEO**) resignation, to seek Council endorsement of the proposed final working day of the Chief Executive Officer at the District Council of Karoonda East Murray (**DCKEM**), and to seek Council's endorsement to terminate the residential tenancy agreement (the **Agreement**) currently held between the CEO and DCKEM.

Discussion

Resignation

Pursuant to the provisions of the *Local Government Act 1999* (the **Act**), a council CEO appointment may be terminated if the CEO resigns their position by notice in writing to the principal member of the council.¹

At 1:27pm on Tuesday 7 July 2026 the CEO served written notice to Mayor Caroline Phillips (by way of email) advising of his resignation from the position of CEO for DCKEM; due to Mr Reardon's acceptance of the CEO position at the Coorong District Council.

Notice Period

Clause 19.3.3 of the CEO's current Employment Agreement (the **Agreement**) provides that the "*Agreement may be terminated by the CEO giving the Council a period of twelve (12) weeks' notice in writing, unless otherwise negotiated with the Council*".

A twelve (12) week notice period would result in Tuesday 29 September 2026 being the CEO's final day at DCKEM, however the CEO requests that Council support Tuesday 15 September 2026 as the CEO's final day at DCKEM (which equates to a ten (10) week notice period).

¹ *Local Government Act 1999* s 97(2)(a).

Interim Measures

The provisions of the Act require that where a pending vacancy is about to occur in the Office of the CEO the council must both take steps to fill the vacancy,² and appoint a person to act in the position of CEO until the vacancy is filled.³

Information relating to both of these statutory requirements appears in confidential reports in the July 2026 Council Agenda, however it should be noted that measures can comfortably be implemented to facilitate the CEO's departure on 15 September 2026.

Termination of Residential Tenancy Agreement

At the Ordinary Meeting on 10 September 2024 Council resolved (Resolution 19.1.3 – Moved Cr Loller / Seconded Cr Turner) to enter into the Agreement with the CEO over the land contained within Certificate of Title Volume 6098 Folio 537, more commonly known as the property located at 2 Golf View Road Karoonda SA 5307.

Clause 10.5 of the Agreement provides grounds for the termination of the Agreement before the conclusion of the fixed term, requiring that:

“The Tenant must give not less than 28 days written notice to the Council to terminate the Agreement without specific grounds of termination”.

On the basis that the CEO has resigned from his position, the CEO hereby gives written notice under clause 10.5 of the Agreement seeking to terminate the lease dated 19 September 2024, with a view to vacate the premises no later than 11 September 2026.

Governance / Risk Implications

By adhering to Council's statutory requirements and implementing measures to ensure a seamless transition, there are no perceived governance-based implications, and the risks associated with this report are assessed as being low.

Recommendation

- 17.4.1** *That Council receive and note the report titled ‘Chief Executive Officer Resignation’ and dated 21 July 2026.*
- 17.4.2** *That Council endorse Tuesday 15 September 2026 as Chief Executive Officer Scott Reardon's final working day at the District Council of Karoonda East Murray.*
- 17.4.3** *That Council receive and note Mr Scott Reardon's written notice terminating the Residential Tenancy Agreement (dated 19 September 2024) currently held between Mr Scott Reardon and the District Council of Karoonda East Murray over the land contained within Certificate of Title Volume 6098 Folio 537, more*

² Local Government Act 1999 s 98(1).

³ Local Government Act 1999 s 98(2).

*commonly known as the property located at 2 Golf View Road Karoonda SA 5307,
with the final date of occupancy being no later than 11 September 2026.*

Attachments

Attachment A	Correspondence – Termination of Residential Tenancy Agreement
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ATTACHMENT A

16 July 2026

District Council of Karoonda East Murray
11 Railway Terrace
KAROONDA SA 5307

Re: Termination of Residential Tenancy Agreement

Dear Mayor and Elected Members.

I write with regard to the current Residential Tenancy Agreement dated 19 September 2024 (the **Agreement**) held between held between us as respective parties over the land contained within Certificate of Title Volume 6098 Folio 537, that more commonly known as the property located at 2 Golf View Road Karoonda SA 5307 (the **Property**).

Pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Agreement, specifically Clause 10.5, I hereby give written notice of not less than 28 days to terminate the Agreement and will provide vacant possession of the Property no later than 11 September 2026.

Should details surrounding this change, I will provide subsequent correspondence.

Kinds regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Scott Reardon', written over a horizontal line.

3Scott Reardon
C/O 2 Golf View Road
KAROONDA SA 5307



Decision Report Item Number **17.5**

MURRAYLANDS & RIVERLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION - DRAFT ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN 2026-27

Report Date: 21 July 2026
Reporting Officer: Chief Executive Officer, Scott Reardon
Responsible Manager: Chief Executive Officer, Scott Reardon

Report Purpose

The purpose of this report **is** to provide Council with a copy of the Murraylands & Riverland Local Government Association (**MRLGA**) Draft Annual Business Plan 2026–27 (the **Draft FY27 ABP**) for the purpose of providing feedback and seeking in-principle endorsement.

Discussion

The MRLGA is a subsidiary established under section 43 of the *Local Government Act 1999* (the **Act**), comprised of the following eight (8) Constituent Councils:

- Berri Barmera Council
- Coorong District Council
- District Council of Karoonda East Murray
- District Council of Loxton Waikerie
- Mid Murray Council
- Renmark Paringa Council
- Rural City of Murray Bridge
- Southern Mallee District Council

The MRLGA operates under a Charter which dictates that it must:

- prepare an Annual Business Plan linking the core activities of the Subsidiary to strategic, operational and organisational requirements with supporting financial projections setting out the estimates of revenue and expenditure as necessary for the period (clause 6.2.1).
- consult with the Constituent Councils prior to adopting or amending the Annual Business Plan (clause 6.2.2).

The Draft FY27 ABP, appearing as Attachment A to this report, has been developed in consultation with the Board, and has been distributed to all eight (8) constituent Councils for review and comment, and the MRLGA is seeking feedback from constituent councils.

Recommendation

17.5.1 *That Council receive and note the report titled ‘Murraylands & Riverland Local Government Association - Draft Annual Business Plan 2026-27’ dated 21 July 2026.*

17.5.2 *That Council endorse of the Murraylands & Riverland Local Government Association Draft Annual Business Plan 2026-27, appearing as Attachment A to this report, and authorise the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer to provide the following feedback (if any):*

- _____

Attachment

Attachment A	Murraylands & Riverland Local Government Association - Draft Annual Business Plan 2026-27
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Decision Report Item Number **17.6**

LEASE AGREEMENT & ALIENATION OF COMMUNITY LAND - HALIDON CFS

Report Date: 21 July 2026
Reporting Officer: Chief Executive Officer, Scott Reardon
Responsible Manager: Chief Executive Officer, Scott Reardon

Report Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's in-principle support to proceed to community consultation following a request received by the Minister for Emergency Services (the **Minister**) to enter into a long-term lease over a portion of the land contained within Certificate of Title 5263 Folio 76, more commonly known as the Halidon Country Fire Services (**CFS**) located at 11 Braithwaite Terrace Halidon.

Discussion

Lease Request

A representative from the Minister's department has contacted Administration seeking to enter into a new long-term lease of over the Halidon CFS site located at 11 Braithwaite Terrace Mindarie (the **Site**). The Minister requests a 21-year lease with the option to extend for the same duration (all up totalling 42-years) over a portion of the land, with an indicative proposed leased areas being bounded by red below.



The Minister also request permission to build and install, at the Minister's expense, a new toilet block and septic system for use at the Site. A proposed location plan appears as Attachment A to this report.

Alienation of Community Land

Pursuant to the provisions of the Act,¹ a council may grant a lease or licence over community land (whether in whole or part) for a term of up to five (5) years without the need for undertaking public consultation. However, the Act also allows for community land to be leased for term in excess of five (5) years up to and including a cumulative maximum term of 42-years subject to public consultation being undertaken prior to any such resolution.

On the basis that the Minister has requested a 21 + 21 year lease over the Site, prior to endorse the same, Council must undertake public consultation of no less than 21-days advising the community that Council intends to alienate the community land for the purposes of endorsing a long-term lease over the Site to the Minister and invite feedback from the community regarding the same.

Community Engagement Policy

Pursuant to clause 5.2.2 of the Council's current Community Engagement Policy (the **Policy**), Alienation of Community Land by lease or licence is classified as a significant event and dictates that consultation should be undertaken via the following mechanisms:

- Publish information about the matter on Council's website and social media platforms.
- Publish information about the matter in a local news publication.
- Distributed information about the matter via a mail-out.
- Seek and consider feedback from the community and invite people who have made a written submission to attend a Council meeting to speak to their respective submission.

Financial Implications

With the exception of costs association with the publishing a notice in a news publication and district wide mail-out (totalling approximately \$700), there are no material perceived financial implications associated with this report.

Community Implications

As the Site has been used for CFS purposes for a long time, the recommendations of this report present no material negative community implications.

Governance / Risk Implications

By undertaking the requisite public consultation process, Council will be acting compliantly with its statutory obligations and in alignment with its current Community Engagement policy. As such

¹ Local Government Act 1999 s 202.

there are no other material perceived governance-based implications associated with this report, therefore the risk(s) associated with this report are assessed as low.

Recommendation

- 17.6.1** *That Council receive and note the report titled 'Lease Agreement and Alienation of Community Land – Halidon CFS' dated 21 July 2026.*
- 17.6.2** *That Council in-principle endorse the Minister for Emergency Services request to enter into 21 + 21 Lease Agreement over a portion of the land contained within Certificate of Title 5263 Folio 76, more commonly known as the Halidon Country Fire Services located at 11 Braithwaite Terrace Halidon.*
- 17.6.3** *That, noting the requested duration of the proposed lease, Council direct Administration to undertake a public consultation process in accordance with the District Council of Karoonda East Murray's current Community Engagement Policy to advise the community of the proposed alienation of community land for the purposes of a long-term lease and seek feedback on the proposal.*
- 17.6.4** *That Council delegate the authority to the Chief Executive Officer to make any necessary administrative amendments to fine tune the specific proposed lease area prior to proceeding to public consultation.*
- 17.6.5** *That following the conclusion of the public consultation process a subsequent report containing any/all feedback be presented to Council at a future meeting.*

Attachment

Attachment A	Site Plan – Proposed Toilet Block Location
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ATTACHMENT A



18. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION & DISCUSSION



Information Report Item Number **18.1**

ASSETS, INFRASTRUCTURE & REGULATORY SERVICES UPDATE

Report Date: 21 July 2026
Reporting Officer: General Manager Assets, Infrastructure & Regulatory Services, James McInnes
Responsible Manager: General Manager Assets, Infrastructure & Regulatory Services, James McInnes

Report Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with information relating to the general operations of Council.

Discussion

Capital Works

- Walker Flat Road has been completed for now.
- Herrmann Road just needs a final trim then it is complete.
- Shifted to Lalirra pit to commence raising.
- The 12 m grader has been disposed of via auction; the new grader arrived on 14 July.



Maintenance Works

- More trees removed from the dam.
- Pumping out of the Ponderosa and Jacks dams.
- Town oval has been mowed weekly.
- Temporary improvements to drainage to stop playground flooding.
- Bus stops added at the Goondooloo Road cross section.
- Gutters cleaned at Apex Park cabins and camp kitchen.
- Slashing and spraying continuing around the town.
- Public toilet signs added at Wanbi.
- DrumMUSTER collection completed.
- Tree trimming is continuing around the district on the following roads:
 - Whytes Well Road
 - Loller Road
 - Yurgo North Road
 - Green Road
 - Bourmgertal Road
 - Prentice Road
 - Gino Road
- Sand drift from Berger Road and Walshs Bore Road.



Regulatory

- CWMS monthly report completed.
- Solar pump at the pond had pressure switch replaced.
- Chlorine dosage level increased to 9.
- Testing continuing at the dam and ponds – 3 times a week.

Grading

- Approximately 90 kilometres of roads have been, graded plus some DRM on Gribble Bore Road and Hundred Line Road.
- Only the one grader is undertaking patrol work until the new one arrives.

NHRV

- 30 permits are currently active.

Customer Service Requests

The following table outlines the number and category of Customer Service Requests (CSR) received between 6 November 2025 and 10 July 2026 (inclusive).

Report Type	Received	Completed	Under Review / Ongoing
Total for Administration	1	1	0
Total for Animal Management	13	13	0
Total for Cemeteries	5	4	1
Total for Council Buildings	3	2	1
Total for Customer Service	3	3	0
Total for Environmental Management	4	4	0
Total for Fire Prevention & Permits	1	1	0
Total for Footpaths	18	11	7
Total for Karoonda Tourist Park	2	2	0
Total for Parks & Gardens	7	6	1
Total for Playgrounds	4	4	0
Total for Public Conveniences	4	3	1
Total for Road Verge & Reserves	1	1	0
Total for Roads	82	75	7
Total for Signs	15	12	3
Total for Stormwater	5	4	1
Total for Trees	7	6	1
Total Service Requests	175	152	23
Request Activity from 06/11/2025 to 10/072026			

Recommendation

18.1.1 That Council receive and note the monthly report titled 'Assets, Infrastructure & Regulatory Services Update' and dated 21 July 2026.



Information Report Item Number **18.2**

COUNCIL RESOLUTION ACTION LIST

Report Date: 21 July 2026
Reporting Officer: Executive Support Officer, Lexie O'Loughlin
Responsible Manager: Chief Executive Officer, Scott Reardon

Report Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update on the status of all current resolutions yet to be fully actioned as at the date of this report.

Discussion

The rolling resolution register (the **Register**), appearing as Attachment A to this report, provides a summary of all outstanding Council resolutions carried since July 2025.

The Register includes a progress commentary (where necessary) for each resolution and the current status of the decision (i.e. not started, in progress, on hold or complete). Once an item has been completed it will be 'greyed out' and removed from the following month's Council report.

Where a resolution is retained in confidence pursuant to section 90 of the *Local Government Act 1999*, the Register will reflect only the confidentiality and retention provisions.

Financial Implications

There are no perceived financial implications associated with this report.

Governance / Risk Implications

There are no perceived governance-based implications associated with this report, therefore the risks associated with this report are assessed as low.

Recommendation

18.2.1 *That Council receive and note the monthly update report titled 'Council Resolution Action List' and dated 21 July 2026.*

Attachment

Attachment A	Council Resolution Action List as at 21 July 2026
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Meeting Date	Report Title	Council Resolution	Progress Commentary	Responsible Officer	Status of Decision
9 July 2024	14.3 RAILWAY SUB-LEASE CORRIDOR	14.3.1 <i>Receives the Railway Station Lease – Aurizon report.</i> 14.3.2 <i>Accepts the ‘Terms of Lease offer’ from Aurizon Property Pty Ltd, on behalf of the landlord, Aurizon ‘Bulk Central Pty Ltd, in respect to the railway corridor sublease of the former railway station and associated land being part of CT5928/448 and CT5697/190 and whole of CT5952 as shown in Attachment A.</i> 14.3.3 <i>Authorises either the Acting Chief Executive Officer/Chief Executive Officer to sign the Terms of Lease offer’ and submit this to Aurizon Property Pty Ltd.</i> 14.3.4 <i>The subsequent Lease Agreement will be presented to Council for in principle approval and consideration to progress to Public Consultation prior to any finalisation of the Lease Agreement.</i>	Administration received a copy of the draft sublease on 6 January 2025. The draft sublease was workshopped with Elected members at the Information / Briefing Session on 21 January 2025 prior to the Council Meeting. A further Information / Briefing Session was held 3 November 2025 to further discuss proposed lease area and preliminary draft options for community access paths. New path concept plans to be developed prior to release to public consultation. Administration has received the revised sublease from Aurizon for review. Anticipated submission to the Chamber for endorsement in September 2026/	CEO	In progress
16 September 2025	17.5 YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS	17.5.1 <i>That Council receive and note the report titled ‘Youth Advisory Committee Recommendations’ and dated 1 September 2025.</i> 17.5.2 <i>That Council endorses the list of infrastructure and event initiatives proposed by the Youth Advisory Committee in-principle, and further directs Administration to investigate costing and potential grant funding opportunities.</i>	Completed. Initiatives are currently being costed. Outcomes to be presented to Council in for inclusion in the FY27 Budget.	CEO GAO	In Progress
18 November 2025	17.5 KAROONDA SWIMMING POOL OPERATIONS 2025-26	17.5.1 <i>That Council receive and note the report titled ‘Karoonda Swimming Pool Operations 2025-26’ and dated 18 November 2025.</i> 17.5.2 <i>That Council endorse the 2025-26 Karoonda Swimming Pool scheduled open public swimming sessions to be held on Sundays between 2pm and 6pm commencing 14 December 2025 and concluding 22 February 2026 subject to a suitably qualified lifeguard, and where necessary a supervising adult, being available to oversee the pool during opening times.</i> 17.5.3 <i>That Council delegate the authority to the Chief Executive Officer to liaise with suitably qualified lifeguards who have been inducted as a Council Volunteer to open the Karoonda Swimming Pool for additional ad hoc open public swimming sessions and/or lap swimming sessions throughout the summer period subject to a suitably qualified lifeguard, and where necessary a supervising adult, being available to oversee the pool during opening times.</i> 17.5.4 <i>That Council retain admission fees for the 2025-26 Summer Swimming Season at \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for</i>	COMPLETED. <i>This item will be removed from the August 2026 Agenda.</i>		

		concessions/students/children, but additionally gauge the community's interest in options for a season pass. 17.5.5 That Council direct Administration and the Karoonda Swimming Pool Complex Strategic Review Committee to conduct a public survey for a period of 21 days to gauge the community's interest in regular swimming lessons being held at Karoonda Swimming Pool, as a joint initiative between Council and the Karoonda Area School, in order to determine the cost feasibility of facilitating such sessions. 17.5.6 That in accordance with Clause 3.2 of the Licence Agreement (dated 11 November 2021) held between the District Council of Karoonda East Murray and the Minister for Education, Training & Skills, Council direct the Chief Executive Officer to commence negotiations to extend and vary the Licence Agreement for a further three (3) years.			
20 January 2026	17.1 FOLLOW UP MURRAYLANDS REGION DROUGHT SURVEY	CNC008/01/26 1. That Council receive and note the report titled 'Follow Up Murraylands Region Drought Survey' and dated 20 January 2026. 2. That Council endorse the release of the Follow Up Murraylands Region Drought Survey for a period of not less than 21 days, with a thematic analysis of the survey findings to be presented back to Council at a future meeting. 3. That the Chief Executive Officer be delegated with the authority to make any necessary administrative amendments to the drought survey of a minor formatting and technical nature prior to its release to public consultation.	COMPLETED An item relating to this appears in the July 2026 Agenda.		
17 February 2026	17.1 SHAPE THE DISTRICT: COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS	CNC017/02/26 1. That Council receive and note the report titled 'Shape the District: Community Survey Results' and dated 17 February 2026. 2. That Council direct Administration to further investigate the preliminary costings and undertake a budgetary impact analysis associated with any potential implications of the various programs and initiatives outlined in this report, including but not restricted to: • a community bike pump track; • footpath remediation and nature trail; • activation of the Institute for community programs; • BBQ, picnic areas and shaded structures; • basketball half court; • road maintenance and upkeep	Completed. In Progress.	CEO CDO	In Progress

		3. That once preliminary costings and budgetary impact analysis has been undertaken, after receipt of the road revaluation report, a subsequent report be submitted to Council for consideration.	Pending.		
17 March 2026	17.4 EXTERNAL AUDITOR APPOINTMENT PROCESS	CNC031/03/26 1. That Council receive and note the report titled 'External Auditor Appointment Process' dated 17 March 2026. 2. That Council endorse the Audit & Risk Committee's recommendation of 12 March 2026 and direct Administration to undertake an open tender process in line with the Procurement Policy to seek to appoint an External Auditor commencing from the 2026-27 financial year. 3. That once the open tender process has been completed, a recommendations report be submitted to the Audit & Risk Committee prior to it being submitted to Council for review and endorsement.	Completed. In Progress. Pending.	CEO	In Progress
16 June 2026	17.6 DRAFT FY27 FEES & CHARGES	CNC080/06/26 1. That Council receive and note the report titled 'Draft FY27 Fees & Charges' dated 16 June 2026. 2. That Council defer consideration of the proposed FY27 Mallee Kids Childcare Centre Fees & Charges, appearing in Attachment A to this report, until the July 2026 Ordinary Meeting of Council following the review of Mallee Kids Childcare Centre Business Case. 3. That Council defer consideration of the proposed FY27 Tourist Park Fees & Charges, appearing in Attachment A to this report, until the July 2026 Ordinary Meeting of Council pending the provision of occupancy statistics and profit and loss statement. 4. That Council adopt all other proposed FY27 Fees & Charges, appearing in Attachment A to this report.	Completed. In Progress. Completed. An item relating to this matter appears in July 2026 Agenda. Completed.		
16 June 2026	17.8 UPDATED INFRASTRUCTURE & ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN – TRANSPORT ASSETS	CNC082/06/26 1. That Council receive and note the report titled 'Updated Infrastructure & Asset Management Plan – Transport Assets' dated 16 June 2026. 2. That Council defer consideration of item 17.8 until such time that the Roads & Infrastructure Committee have reviewed the updated Infrastructure & Asset Management Plan and provided feedback.	COMPLETED An item relating to this matter appears in the July 2026 Agenda. This item will be removed from the August 2026 Agenda.		

CONFIDENTIAL

Meeting date	Report Title	Council Resolution	Progress Commentary	Responsible Officer	Status of Decision

19. CORRESPONDENCE

Nil.

20. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

21. CLOSE OF MEETING



MINUTES

of

ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

pursuant to the provisions of section 91 of the

Local Government Act 1999

held at

KAROONDA EAST MURRAY

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

11 RAILWAY TERRACE KAROONDA

on

TUESDAY 16 JUNE 2026 AT 7:30PM

**MINUTES
ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL
TUESDAY 16 JUNE 2026**

1. OPENING OF MEETING

The Presiding Member declared the meeting open at 7:33pm.

2. PRAYER AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY

All mighty God we call upon you to grant your blessings upon this Council. Direct and guide its deliberations to the advancement of your glory and for the true wellbeing of the people of our area. AMEN.

We acknowledge that the land we meet upon today is the traditional lands of the Ngarkat People, who are part of the First Peoples of the River Murray and Mallee Region. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging and acknowledge and respect their deep spiritual and cultural connection to Country.

3. ATTENDANCE

3.1 PRESENT

Mayor Caroline Phillips
Cr Greg Turner entered the meeting at 7:35pm
Cr Gerry Paay
Cr Russell Norman
Cr Simon Martin
Cr Darren Zadow

Staff in Attendance

CEO Scott Reardon
ESO Lexie O'Loughlin

3.2 APOLOGIES

Cr Hannah Loller

3.3 LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil.

ANNEXURE A

4. DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

<i>Item No & Title</i>	17.7 Draft FY27 CWMS and Kerbside Waste Collection Fees & Charges
<i>Elected Member Name</i>	Cr Greg Turner
<i>Nature of Interest</i>	Section 74 of the <i>Local Government Act 1999</i> – General Conflict of Interest.
<i>The manner in which conflict will be dealt with</i>	Cr Turner advised he will remain in the room and participate in discussion and the vote.

<i>Item No & Title</i>	17.9 Draft FY27 Annual Business Plan & Budget
<i>Elected Member Name</i>	Mayor Caroline Phillips
<i>Nature of Interest</i>	Section 75 of the <i>Local Government Act 1999</i> – Material Conflict of Interest.
<i>The manner in which conflict will be dealt with</i>	Mayor Phillips advised that she would leave the room and not participate in discussion or debate, and would handover to Deputy Mayor Norman to preside over the meeting.

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

5.1 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD 19 MAY 2026

Moved Cr Norman

CNC070/06/26

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 19 May 2026 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

Seconded Cr Martin

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5.2 MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE HELD 4 JUNE 2026

Moved Cr Norman

CNC071/06/26

That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Audit & Risk Committee held on 4 June 2026 be received and noted.

Seconded Cr Zadow

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6 BUSINESS ADJOURNED

Nil.

7 PETITIONS

Nil.

8 DEPUTATIONS

Nil.

9 PRESENTATIONS

Nil.

10 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Nil.

11 MAYOR'S DIARY

Moved Cr Martin

CNC072/06/26

That with the addition of 'Meeting with Karoonda Districts Football Club' on 4 June 2026, Council receive and note the report titled 'Mayor's Diary' and dated 16 June 2026 for the period between 20 May 2026 and 16 June 2026.

Seconded Cr Zadow

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

12 ELECTED MEMBER UPDATES

Cr Zadow

16 June 2026 Ordinary Meeting of Council

Cr Turner

16 June 2026 Ordinary Meeting of Council

Cr Martin

16 June 2026 Ordinary Meeting of Council

Cr Paay

16 June 2026 Ordinary Meeting of Council

Cr Norman

16 June 2026 One-on-one with CEO Scott Reardon

16 June 2026 Ordinary Meeting of Council

ANNEXURE A

Moved Cr Norman

CNC073/06/26

That Council receives and notes the Elected Members' Reports.

Seconded Cr Paay

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

13 QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Nil.

14 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

Nil.

15 MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Nil.

16 MOTIONS WITH NOTICE

Nil.

17 ITEMS FOR DECISION

17.1 COMPLAINT HANDLING POLICY REVIEW

Moved Cr Martin

CNC074/06/26

1. *That Council receive and note the report titled 'Complaint Handling Policy Review' and dated 16 June 2026.*
2. *That Council adopt the revised Complaint Handling Policy, appearing as Attachment B to this report.*

Seconded Cr Paay

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

17.2 NEW FEES & CHARGES POLICY REVIEW

Moved Cr Zadow

CNC075/06/26

1. *That Council receive and note the report titled 'New Fees & Charges Policy Review' and dated 16 June 2026.*
2. *That based on the Audit & Risk Committee's support, it is recommended that Council adopt the New Fees & Charges Policy, appearing as Attachment B to this report.*

Seconded Cr Turner

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

17.3 NEW DRAFT FULL COST ATTRIBUTION POLICY

Moved Cr Turner

CNC076/06/26

1. *That Council receive and note the report titled 'New Draft Full Cost Attribution Policy' and dated 16 June 2026.*
2. *That Council endorse the Audit & Risk Committee's recommendation of 4 June 2026 to adopt the 'New Draft Full Cost Attribution Policy', appearing as Attachment B to this report.*

Seconded Cr Martin

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

17.4 NEW DRAFT EXTERNAL GRANT FUNDING POLICY

Moved Cr Norman

CNC077/06/26

1. *That Council receive and note the report titled 'New Draft External Grant Funding Policy' dated 16 June 2026.*
2. *That Council endorse the Audit & Risk Committee's recommendation of 4 June 2026 to adopt the 'New Draft External Grant Funding Policy', appearing as Attachment B to this report.*

Seconded Cr Zadow

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

17.5 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT POLICY REVIEW

Moved Cr Norman

CNC078/06/26

1. *That Council receive and note the report titled 'Community Engagement Policy Review' dated 16 June 2026.*
2. *That Council endorse and adopt the Community Engagement Policy appearing as Attachment A to this report.*
3. *That the Chief Executive Officer be delegated with the authority to make any necessary administrative amendments to the Community Engagement Policy as required.*

Seconded Cr Zadow

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

17.6 DRAFT FY27 FEES & CHARGES

Moved Cr Turner

CNC080/06/26

ANNEXURE A

1. That Council receive and note the report titled 'Draft FY27 Fees & Charges' dated 16 June 2026.
2. That Council defer consideration of the proposed FY27 Mallee Kids Childcare Centre Fees & Charges, appearing in Attachment A to this report, until the July 2026 Ordinary Meeting of Council following the review of Mallee Kids Childcare Centre Business Case.
3. That Council defer consideration of the proposed FY27 Tourist Park Fees & Charges, appearing in Attachment A to this report, until the July 2026 Ordinary Meeting of Council pending the provision of occupancy statistics and profit and loss statement.
4. That Council adopt all other proposed FY27 Fees & Charges, appearing in Attachment A to this report.

Seconded Cr Paay

CARRIED

17.7 DRAFT FY27 CWMS AND KERBSIDE WASTE COLLECTION FEES & CHARGES

Cr Turner declared a **General** Conflict of Interest pursuant to section 74 of the *Local Government Act 1999* in Agenda Item 17.7 'Draft FY27 CWMS and Kerbside Waste Collection Fees & Charges' on the basis that Cr Turner's business is the waste collection services contracted by Council. Cr Turner advised that he would remain in the room and participate in discussion and vote.

Moved Cr Zadow

CNC081/06/26

1. That Council receive and note the report titled 'Draft FY27 CWMS and Kerbside Waste Collection Fees & Charges' dated 16 June 2026.
2. That Council endorse the Audit & Risk Committee's recommendation of 4 June 2026 and raise the CWMS fees for FY27 by 12.9%, which will result in a dollar amount increase to:
 - 'Occupied' leviable properties of \$76 (from \$586 in FY26 to \$662 in FY27)
 - 'Vacant' leviable properties of \$72 (from \$558 in FY26 to \$630 in FY27).
3. That as part of the current review being undertaken, Council directs Administration to update the Long-Term Financial Plan to include an explicit assumption that CWMS charges will be progressively increased (in line with the council motion, for example by 12.5% pa) until such time as cost recovery is achieved.
4. That Council raise the Kerbside Waste Collection fees for FY27 by 5.9%, which will result in a dollar amount increase from:
 - \$180.00 (in FY26) to \$191.00 for 'Enroute Bin Collection';
 - \$280.00 (in FY26) to \$297.00 for 'Additional Bin Collection'.

ANNEXURE A

Seconded Cr Norman

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

17.8 UPDATED INFRASTRUCTURE & ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN – TRANSPORT ASSETS

Moved Cr Martin

CNC082/06/26

1. That Council receive and note the report titled 'Updated Infrastructure & Asset Management Plan – Transport Assets' dated 16 June 2026.
2. That Council defer consideration of item 17.8 until such time that the Roads & Infrastructure Committee have reviewed the updated Infrastructure & Asset Management Plan and provided feedback.

Seconded Cr Zadow

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

17.9 DRAFT FY27 ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN & BUDGET

Mayor Phillips declared a Material Conflict of Interest pursuant to section 75 of the *Local Government Act 1999* in Agenda Item 17.9 'Draft FY27 Annual Business Plan & Budget' On the basis that Mayor Phillips is the President of the Netball Club. Mayor Phillips advised that she will leave the room.

Mayor Phillips left the room at 8:15pm.

Pursuant to section 86(2) of the *Local Government Act 1999*, in the absence of Mayor Phillips, Deputy Mayor Norman commenced presiding over the meeting at 8:16pm.

Moved Cr Turner

CNC083/06/26

1. That Council receive and note the report titled 'Draft FY27 Annual Business Plan & Budget' dated 16 June 2026.
2. That Council make the following additions or amendments to the Draft FY27 Annual Business Plan & Budget (if any) appearing as Attachment A to this report.
3. That Council endorse the Draft FY27 Annual Business Plan & Budget in-principle and release it to public consultation for a period of not less than 21-days.
4. That Council delegate the authority to the Chief Executive Officer to make any administrative amendments to the Draft FY27 Annual Business Plan & Budget, appearing as Attachment A to this report, prior to its release to public consultation.

Seconded Cr Paay

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mayor Phillips returned to the room at 8:17pm.

Mayor Phillips resumed presiding over the meeting at 8:17pm.

ANNEXURE A

17.10 REAPPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE COUNCIL ASSESSMENT PANEL

Moved Cr Norman

CNC084/06/26

1. *That Council receive and note the report titled 'Reappointment of Members to the Council Assessment Panel' dated 16 June 2026.*
2. *That Council, as designated authority pursuant to Section 83 of the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act, appoints the following Independent Members to its three Member Council Assessment Panel, for a period of two years commencing 29 July 2026:*
 - *Cheryle Pedler – Independent Member*
 - *Myles Somers – Independent Member*
3. *That Council, as designated authority pursuant to Section 83 of the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act, appoints the following Council representative members to its three Member Council Assessment Panel, for the remaining duration of the current Council term:*
 - *Cr Martin - Presiding Member*
 - *Cr Zadow - Deputy Presiding Member (Proxy):*
4. *That Council sets a sitting fee of \$300 per meeting for independent members of the Council Assessment Panel who are in attendance at a meeting.*

Seconded Cr Turner

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

17.11 DISTRICT ENTRY SIGNAGE

Moved Cr Turner

CNC086/06/26

1. *That Council receive and note the report titled 'District Entry Signage' dated 16 June 2026.*
2. *That Council endorse the proposed district entry signage concept designs.*
3. *That Council endorse the repurposing of already approved unspent \$15,000 CWMS capital budget to fund the production of the proposed signs.*

Seconded Cr Zadow

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

18 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

18.1 ASSETS, INFRASTRUCTURE & REGULATORY SERVICES UPDATE

Moved Cr Turner

ANNEXURE A

CNC088/06/26

That Council receive and note the monthly report titled 'Assets, Infrastructure & Regulatory Services Update' and dated 16 June 2026.

Seconded Cr Zadow

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

18.2 COUNCIL RESOLUTION ACTION LIST

Moved Cr Norman

CNC089/06/26

That Council receive and note the monthly update report titled 'Council Resolution Action List' and dated 16 June 2026.

Seconded Cr Zadow

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

18.3 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY REPORT

Moved Cr Norman

CNC090/06/26

That Council receive and note the monthly update report titled 'Community Development Activity Report' and dated 16 June 2026.

Seconded Cr Paay

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

19 CORRESPONDENCE

Nil.

20 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Nil.

21 CLOSE OF MEETING

The Presiding Member declared the meeting closed at 8:31pm.

Confirmed: _____ Date: _____