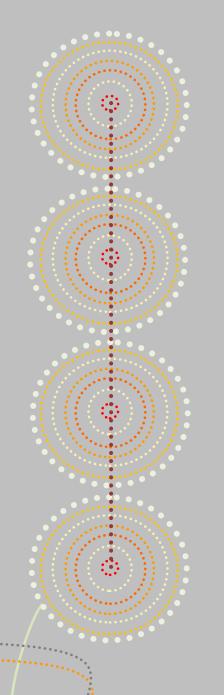
## **Shire of Goomalling**





# COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

March 2024

#### NYOONGAR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge this land that we meet on today is part of the traditional lands of the Nyoongar people and that we respect their spiritual relationship with their country. We also acknowledge the Nyoongar Ballardong people as the custodians of the greater Goomalling/Koomal area and that their cultural and heritage beliefs are still important to the living Nyoongar Ballardong people today.

#### **NOTICE OF MEETING**

Meeting No. 03 of 2024 of the Shire of Goomalling Council to be held in the Council Chambers, Administration Office, 32 Quinlan Street, Goomalling on Wednesday, 20 March 2024 at 4.30pm.

#### 1. DECLARATION OF OPENING & ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

Nil.

#### 2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES & APPROVED LEAVE OF ABSENCE

#### 2.1. Attendance

Council President & Chairperson Cr Julie Chester

Vice President
Councillor
Cr Barry Haywood
Cr Brendon Wilkes
Councillor
Cr Mark Ashton

Administration Chief Executive Officer Mr Peter Bentley

Works Manager Mr David Long EACEO Mrs Liddy Pudwell

#### 2.2. Apologies

Nil.

#### 2.3. Approved Leave of Absence

Nil.

#### 3. DECLARATION OF:

- FINANCIAL INTEREST
- MEMBERS IMPARTIALITY INTEREST
- PROXIMITY INTEREST

#### 4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Nil

#### 5. APPLICATION FROM MEMBERS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

#### 6. CONFIRMATION AND RECEIVING OF MINUTES & BUSINESS ARISING

6.1 Ordinary Meeting of Council held Wednesday 21 February 2024

#### **RESOLUTION: 762**

Moved by Cr Haywood, seconded by Cr Barratt that Council confirms the minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Wednesday 21 February 2024

CARRIED: 7/0

|                 | For | Against |            | For       | Against |
|-----------------|-----|---------|------------|-----------|---------|
| Cr Chester      | √   |         | Cr Ashton  | $\sqrt{}$ |         |
| Cr Van Gelderen | √   |         | Cr Barratt |           |         |
| Cr Butt         | √   |         | Cr Wilkes  |           |         |
| Cr Haywood      | √   |         |            |           |         |

#### 7. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PRESIDING PERSON WITHOUT DISCUSSION

- 8. PETITIONS/DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS/SUBMISSIONS
- 9. OFFICERS' REPORTS

#### 9.1 SCHEDULE OF ACCOUNTS PAID 1 FEBRUARY TO 29 FEBRUARY

| File Reference         | Not applicable                               |
|------------------------|--|
| Disclosure of Interest | Nil  |
| Applicant              | Not Applicable                               |
| Previous Item Numbers  | No Direct                                    |
| Date                   | 13 March 2024                                |
| Author                 | Natalie Brid, Deputy Chief Executive Officer |
| Authorising Officer    | Natalie Brid, Deputy Chief Executive Officer |

#### **Attachments**

- 9.3.1. Schedule of Payments February 2024
- 9.3.2. Corporate Credit Card Statements February 2024

#### **Summary**

#### **FUND VOUCHERS AMOUNT**

| .39 |
|-----|
| .93 |
| .00 |
|     |

24005 70

Super DD17192, DD17361 21365.76 *TOTAL* \$593080.79

#### **Voting Requirements**

Simple Majority

**RESOLUTION: 763** 

Moved by Cr Ashton, seconded by Cr Wilkes that the Council:

Approve vouchers from the Municipal fund and Trust Fund as detailed:

#### **FUND VOUCHERS AMOUNT**

EFT 6485-6614 \$385,065.71

Direct Debits 8617-8619 \$4265.39

Cheques 15515 to 15522 \$58960.93

Payroll JNL 6966,6978 \$123423.00

Super DD17192, DD17361 21365.76

TOTAL \$593080.79

CARRIED: 7/0

|                 | For       | Against |            | For          | Against |
|-----------------|-----------|---------|------------|--------------|---------|
| Cr Chester      | $\sqrt{}$ |         | Cr Ashton  | $\checkmark$ |         |
| Cr Van Gelderen | $\sqrt{}$ |         | Cr Barratt | $\checkmark$ |         |
| Cr Butt         | $\sqrt{}$ |         | Cr Wilkes  | $\checkmark$ |         |
| Cr Haywood      | V         |         |            |              |         |

#### 9.2 FINANCIAL REPOT FOR FEBRUARY 2024

| File Reference   | Not Applicable                |  |  |  |
|--|-------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Disclosure of Interest   | Nil                           |  |  |  |
| Applicant  | Shire of Goomalling           |  |  |  |
| Previous Item Numbers  | No Direct                     |  |  |  |
| Date   | 13 March 2024                 |  |  |  |
| Author   | Natalie Bird, Finance Manager |  |  |  |
| Authorising Officer  | Natalie Bird, Finance Manager |  |  |  |
| Attachments 9.2.1 Monthly Financial Report to 29 February 2024 |                               |  |  |  |

#### Summary

In accordance with the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*, to follow is the presentation of the Monthly Financial Reports to Council.

#### **Background**

Monthly Financial Reports are to be presented to Council and are to be received by Council resolution.

#### **Statutory Environment**

Local Government Act 1995 - Section 6.4 (as amended)

Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 - Clause 34 and 35

#### **Policy Implications**

No specific policy regarding this matter.

#### **Financial Implications**

Ongoing management of Council funds

#### **Strategic Implications**

| Shire of G  | Shire of Goomalling Community Strategic Plan 2019-2028 |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|
| 4.1.4 Provide reporting processes in a transparent, accountable and timely manner |  |  |  |

#### **Voting Requirements**

#### **RESOLUTION: 764**

Moved by Cr Ashton, seconded by Cr Barratt that the Council:

1. Receive the Monthly Financial Report to 29 February 2024

**CARRIED: 7/0**Simple Majority

|                 | For       | Against |            | For       | Against |
|-----------------|-----------|---------|------------|-----------|---------|
| Cr Chester      | $\sqrt{}$ |         | Cr Ashton  | $\sqrt{}$ |         |
| Cr Van Gelderen | $\sqrt{}$ |         | Cr Barratt | $\sqrt{}$ |         |
| Cr Butt         | $\sqrt{}$ |         | Cr Wilkes  | V         |         |
| Cr Haywood      | √         |         |            |           |         |

#### 9.3 COMPLIANCE AUDIT RETURN

| File Reference:               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Disclosure of Interest:       | Nil                                     |
| Applicant:                    | N/A                                     |
| <b>Previous Item Numbers:</b> |   |
| Date:                         | 12 March 2024                           |
| Author:                       | Peter Bentley – Chief Executive Officer |
| Authorising Officer:          | Peter Bentley – Chief Executive Officer |
| Attachments                   | 9.3.1 Compliance Audit Return 2023      |

#### Summary

To adopt Council's 2023 Compliance Audit Return (CAR) in accordance with the Local Government Act 1995

#### **Background**

Each Western Australian local government is required to carry out a compliance audit for the period 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023 against the requirements of the compliance audit return. The CAR has been prepared by the CEO and reviewed by CEO. After the compliance audit return is accepted by Council, a certified copy of the return, along with the relevant section of the minutes and any additional information explaining or qualifying the compliance audit, is to be submitted to the Director General of the Department of Local Government and Communities by 31 March 2024.

#### Consultation

Nil other

#### **Policy**

Nil

#### **Statutory Environment**

Local Government Act (1995)

#### **Financial Implications**

Nil known

#### **Strategic Implications**

| Shire of Goomalling Community Strategic Plan 2019-2028 |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| 4.1.4  | Provide reporting processes in a transparent, accountable and timely manner. |  |  |  |
| 4.2.2  | Promote a culture of continuous improvement processes and resource sharing.  |  |  |  |

#### **Comment/Conclusion**

Nil other

#### **Voting Requirements**

Simple Majority

#### **RESOLUTION: 765**

Moved by Cr Haywood, seconded by Cr Ashton that the Council:

Adopt the presented Compliance Return as the Official Compliance Return for 2023 with the following certifications: -

- The information contained in this Return is true and correct to the best of our knowledge.
- This Return was included in the agenda papers and considered by Council at the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 20 March 2024.
- Each Councillor has had the opportunity to review the Return and to make comment to the Council.
- The extract of the minutes attached to the Return is a true and correct copy of the relevant section(s) of the above-mentioned minutes.
- The Council adopted the Compliance Audit Return as the official Return of Council for the period 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023.
- Council reviewed the 2023 Compliance Audit Return noting amendments as detailed and recorded its satisfaction to the answers in the return.

CARRIED: 7/0

|                 | For       | Against |            | For       | Against |
|-----------------|-----------|---------|------------|-----------|---------|
| Cr Chester      | $\sqrt{}$ |         | Cr Ashton  | $\sqrt{}$ |         |
| Cr Van Gelderen | $\sqrt{}$ |         | Cr Barratt | $\sqrt{}$ |         |
| Cr Butt         | $\sqrt{}$ |         | Cr Wilkes  | $\sqrt{}$ |         |
| Cr Haywood      | $\sqrt{}$ |         |            |           |         |

#### 9.4 3 – 6 DOG APPLICATION

| File Reference:               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Disclosure of Interest:       | Nil  |
| Applicant:                    | Meagan Carter – 66 Quinlan Street Goomalling |
| <b>Previous Item Numbers:</b> |  |
| Date:                         | 12 March 2024                                |
| Author:                       | Peter Bentley – Chief Executive Officer      |
| Authorising Officer:          | Peter Bentley – Chief Executive Officer      |
| Attachments                   | 9.4.1  |

#### **In Summary**

To consider an application for the keeping of four dogs at the above address.

#### **Background**

Council has received an application to keep four dogs at the above address and Councils Ranger has inspected the property and the following is her assessment of the situation.

#### Consultation

Irene Ryan - Contract Ranger

#### **Policy**

Council does not have a specific policy regarding this matter.

#### **Statutory Environment**

Local Government Act (1995) Dog Act 1976

#### **Financial Implications**

Minimal

#### **Strategic Implications**

#### **Shire of Goomalling Community Strategic Plan 2019-2028**

1.1.1 This matter is not dealt with in the Shire of Goomalling Community Strategic Plan.

#### **Comment/Conclusion**

Nil/Other

#### **Voting Requirements**

Simple Majority

#### **RESOLUTION: 766**

Moved by Cr Van Gelderen, seconded by Cr Ashton that Council APPROVE the application for four (4) dogs to be housed at 66 Quinlan Street, Goomalling in accordance with Section 26.3 of the Dog Act 1976 with the following conditions:

- 1. The approval being placed on the condition that the dogs do not prove to be a nuisance (to the satisfaction of Council) to adjoining or adjacent neighbours in terms of barking, aggressive behaviours and / or wandering.
- 2. The exemption applies only to the four (4) dogs stated on the application. Once any of the dogs are deceased, sold or otherwise disposed of, the exemption for that particular dog ceases to have effect.
- 3. The exemption will cease to have effect on the date of any conviction for an offence relating to the Dog Act 1976 in respect of any of the dogs, or any person in charge of those dogs.
- 4. The subject property must be kept clear of all animal excreta using proper disposal methods.
- 5. Adequate cover and protection are always to be available to the dogs.
- 6. The dogs are to be adequately confined in accordance with Section 18 of the Shires Dog Local Law.
- 7. The property is to be inspected annually by the Council Ranger.
- 8. Access to the property is to be given to the Council Ranger for the Annual Inspection, or more regularly if the Council so determines.
- 9. An automatic water trough is installed in the daytime yard when the dogs are left unattended throughout the day for access to fresh clean water at all times.
- 10. I recommend the owners of Scrappy and Zues seek Professional Training assistance for both dogs.
- 11. When walking Scrappy outside of the premises he is to be treated the same as a Declared Dangerous Dog with a muzzle to be placed on him at all times.
- 12. A 'Beware of Dangerous Dog' sign is to placed on the fence of his yard.

LOST: 0/7

|                 | For | Against      |            | For | Against      |
|-----------------|-----|--------------|------------|-----|--------------|
| Cr Chester      |     | $\sqrt{}$    | Cr Ashton  |     | $\sqrt{}$    |
| Cr Van Gelderen |     | $\sqrt{}$    | Cr Barratt |     | $\sqrt{}$    |
| Cr Butt         |     | $\checkmark$ | Cr Wilkes  |     | $\checkmark$ |
| Cr Haywood      |     | $\checkmark$ |            |     |              |

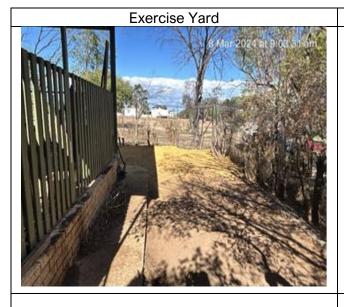
Reason: Council do not support applications where dogs are considered dangerous and request that both dogs (Scrappy and Zues) be removed from the property within 28 days.



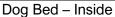






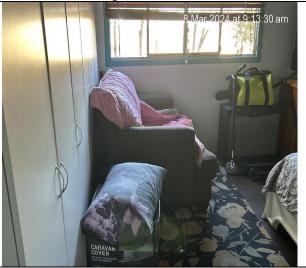








Dog Bed – Couch



Inside Dog Bed



Inside Water Bowl



#### 9.5 COUNCIL POLICY REVIEW

| File Reference:         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| Disclosure of Interest: | Nil                                     |
| Applicant:              | N/A                                     |
| Previous Item Numbers:  | Various                                 |
| Date:                   | 12 March 2024                           |
| Author:                 | Peter Bentley – Chief Executive Officer |
| Authorising Officer:    | Peter Bentley – Chief Executive Officer |
| Attachments             | 9.5.1 Policy documents                  |

#### **In Summary**

To review Councils Policies and to amend, change, update and/or delete as necessary.

#### **Background**

Council is required to regularly review its policies to ensure that they are relevant and are fit for purpose. In this review I have asked whether Council believes that some policies are still relevant, to change wording in some policies and generally review although the document provided is not in the final format.

It is important that Council ensures that they are fit for purpose – staff will ensure that the formatting of the final manual is adequate. Following this process, an electronic copy of the final document will be provided to each Councillor.

All policies have had the format of presentation updated.

#### Consultation

Nil other

#### **Policy**

Nil

#### **Statutory Environment**

- Local Government Act (1995)
- Work Health and Safety Act

#### **Financial Implications**

Nil known

#### **Strategic Implications**

| Shire of Goo | Shire of Goomalling Community Strategic Plan 2019-2028                       |  |  |  |  |  |
|--------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 4.1.4        | Provide reporting processes in a transparent, accountable and timely manner. |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4.2.2        | Promote a culture of continuous improvement processes and resource sharing.  |  |  |  |  |  |

#### **Comment/Conclusion**

#### Comment on policy changes:

| Comment on policy of       | changes:   |
|----------------------------|--|
| Policy 01 – 03             | these policies are relatively recent and were adopted in the current format. There are no changes proposed for these policies. |
| Policies 1.3 & 1.5         | No significant changes – 1.3 Councilors to determine acceptable limits either now or at the time of PD being undertaken.       |
| Policy 1.6                 | Consider if all committees listed are still relevant. (Last 4)   |
| Policies 1.7 & 1.8         | Format change only   |
| Policy 1.9                 | Delete Policy – superseded by 1.19 and 1.30  |
| Policy 1.10                | Delete – Council has not awarded Australia Day awards for some time  |
| Policy 1.11                | Format Change  |
| Policy 1.12                | Delete – superseded by Policy 1.20   |
| Policy 1.14<br>Policy 1.14 | Old Policy 4.19 - Delete – Superseded Policy 3.4<br>New Policy (ex 4.19) Format Change and new number                          |
| Policies 1.15 – 1.17       | Format Change  |
| Policy 1.20                | Policy modified to incorporate old policies 4.24, 4.21, 4.05.  |
| Policy 1.21                | Format Change  |
| Policy 2.1                 | Change in asset threshold and Format Change  |
| Policies 2.2 – 2.5         | Format Change and Update cardholders in 2.5  |
| Policy 2.08                | Format Change  |
| Policy 2.10                | Format Change and change to reflect current signatories.   |
| Policies 2.11 – 2.13       | Format Changes – Old Policy 2.11 – deleted captured in code of conduct   |
| Policy 2.14                | Format Change  |
| Policy 2.18                | Format Change  |
| Policy 3.1 – 3.3           | Format Change.   |
| Policy 3.4                 | Format change and incorporates Old Policy 3.40   |
| Policy 3.3 & 3.6           | Format Change  |
| Policy 3.7                 | Format change and wording for clarity  |
| Policies 3.08 – 3.16       | Format Change and some wording changes for clarity   |

## SHIRE OF GOOMALLING MINUTES FOR ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL WEDNESDAY 20 MARCH 2024

|                                | WEDNESDAY 20 MARCH 2024  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Policy 3.17 & 3.18             | Format Change but question whether still relevant – Possible Deletion 3.18 superseded by 3.20  |
| Policy 3.19                    | Format Change  |
| Policy 3.20                    | Format Change  |
| Policies 4.0 – 4.2             | Format Change  |
| Policy 4.3                     | Change to remove reference to Shire flag being flown during Council Meetings. Has not happened for many years.   |
| Policy 4.4                     | Delete – No Longer relevant  |
| Policy 4.5                     | Delete – Superseded  |
| Policy 4.15                    | Delete – Superseded  |
| Policy 4.21                    | Delete – Superseded  |
| Policy 4.23                    | Delete – No Longer Relevant  |
| Policy 4.24                    | Superseded by Policy 8.4   |
| Policy 4.34                    | Format Change  |
| Policies 5.0 – 5.6             | Format Changes   |
| Policy 6.0                     | Add CEO to policy for "satisfaction".  |
| Policies 7.0 – 7.1             | Format Changes   |
| Policy 8.0 – 8.01              | Format Changes (Old Policy 1.3.2)  |
| Policy 8.02                    | Is this still relevant Old Policy 1.18 – has not been used in past five (5) years. Council can make such decisions without a policy but need to be consistent. |
| Policy 8.3                     | Format Change  |
| Policy 8.4<br>Policy 8.5 & 8.6 | Incorporates old policies 4.24, 4.21, 4.05 and Format Changes Format Changes   |
| Policy 8.07                    | Is this still relevant regarding revenue for drumMuster  |
| Policy 8.8                     | Is this relevant – seems to be a statement rather than a policy – Format change or possible deletion.  |

Format Change and small wording changes.

Policy 10

Given that the council is comfortable with any changes in wording and format it is recommended that the Council adopts the attached policies.

#### **Voting Requirements**

Simple Majority

**RESOLUTION: 767** 

Motion moved by Cr Barratt, seconded by Cr Ashton that the Council:

Adopts the presented Policy document as amended by this meeting.

CARRIED: 7/0

|                 | For          | Against |            | For       | Against |
|-----------------|--------------|---------|------------|-----------|---------|
| Cr Chester      | $\checkmark$ |         | Cr Ashton  | $\sqrt{}$ |         |
| Cr Van Gelderen | $\sqrt{}$    |         | Cr Barratt | $\sqrt{}$ |         |
| Cr Butt         | $\sqrt{}$    |         | Cr Wilkes  | $\sqrt{}$ |         |
| Cr Haywood      | V            |         |            |           |         |

#### 9.6 BUDGET REVIEW

| File Reference                           | 03.6                                    |  |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|--|
| Disclosure of Interest                   | Nil                                     |  |  |  |
|  |   |  |  |  |
| Applicant                                | Shire of Goomalling                     |  |  |  |
| Previous Item Numbers                    | No Direct                               |  |  |  |
| Date                                     | 8 <sup>th</sup> March 2024              |  |  |  |
| Author                                   | Peter Bentley – Chief Executive Officer |  |  |  |
| <b>Authorising Officer</b>               | Peter Bentley – Chief Executive Officer |  |  |  |
| Attachments                              |   |  |  |  |
| 9.6.1 Copy of the Budget Review Document |   |  |  |  |

#### Summary

To consider and adopt the Budget Review as presented for the period 1 July 2023 to 29 February 2024

#### **Background**

The Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, regulation 33A as amended, requires that local governments conduct a budget review between 1 January and 31 March in each financial year. A copy of the review and determination is to be provided to the Department of Local Government within 14 days of the adoption of the review.

#### Consultation

Deputy Chief Executive Officer (DCEO).

#### **Statutory Environment**

Local Government Act 1995 (as amended).

Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996.

Regulation 33A of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 requires:

#### 33A. Review of budget

- (1) Between 1 January and the last day of February in each financial year a local government is to carry out a review of its annual budget for that year.
- (2A) The review of an annual budget for a financial year must
  - (a) consider the local government's financial performance in the period beginning on 1 July and ending no earlier than 31 December in that financial year; and
  - (b) consider the local government's financial position as at the date of the review; and
  - (c) review the outcomes for the end of that financial year that are forecast in the budget; and
  - (d) include the following
    - (i) the annual budget adopted by the local government;
    - (ii) an update of each of the estimates included in the annual budget;
    - (iii) the actual amounts of expenditure, revenue and income as at the date of the review;
    - (iv) adjacent to each item in the annual budget adopted by the local government that states an amount, the estimated end-of-year amount for the item.
- (2) The review of an annual budget for a financial year must be submitted to the council on or before 31 March in that financial year.

(3) A council is to consider a review submitted to it and is to determine\* whether or not to adopt the review, any parts of the review or any recommendations made in the review.

\*Absolute majority required

(4) Within 14 days after a council has made a determination, a copy of the review and determination is to be provided to the Department.

#### **Policy Implications**

Nil

#### **Financial Implications**

Ongoing management of Council funds

#### **Strategic Implications**

| Shire of Goon | Shire of Goomalling Community Strategic Plan 2019-2028                            |  |  |  |  |
|---------------|---|--|--|--|--|
| 4.1.4         | 4.1.4 Provide reporting processes in a transparent, accountable and timely manner |  |  |  |  |
| 4.2.3         | Use resources efficiently and effectively   |  |  |  |  |
| 4.2.1         | 4.2.1 Operate in a financially sustainable manner                                 |  |  |  |  |

#### **Comment/Conclusion**

The purpose of the budget review is to ensure that the Council is informed of the likely financial position of the Shire to 30 June 2024 in terms of its adopted Budget. For the purposes of annual reporting, Council is required to report against the adopted budget.

In reviewing the 2023/24 Budget and incorporating the amendments and the decreased audited surplus for the 2022/23 financial year, the changes made to the various accounts has resulted in the revised forecast closing deficit of \$440,499 to 30 June 2024.

A List of Budget Amendments is shown in Note 2 in the attached report and the following is a snapshot by classification of changes.

Primarily the deficit is due to the inability to undertake the WSFN projects because of delays in the signing off of the 2024 funding arrangements. This has extended the funding for the current and next year over three years rather than the budgeted 2 years. Staff have had to undertake unfunded own source maintenance works that have not been budgeted for this year.

#### **Voting Requirements**

Absolute Majority

\_\_\_\_\_

#### **RESOLUTION:768**

Moved by Cr Cr Van Gelderen, seconded by Cr Wilkes that the Council:

- 1. In accordance with Local Government (Financial Management) Regulation 33A and the Local Government Act, Council adopts the 2023/24 Budget Review for the period ending 29 February 2024, as attached to the Agenda.
- 2. That the CEO provides a copy of the review and determination to the Department within 14 days of determination.
- 3. The CEO investigate any and all reasonable measures that may reduce the deficit position prior to the financial year end.

CARRIED: 7/0

|                 | For       | Against |            | For          | Against |
|-----------------|-----------|---------|------------|--------------|---------|
| Cr Chester      | $\sqrt{}$ |         | Cr Ashton  | $\checkmark$ |         |
| Cr Van Gelderen | $\sqrt{}$ |         | Cr Barratt | $\sqrt{}$    |         |
| Cr Butt         | $\sqrt{}$ |         | Cr Wilkes  | $\sqrt{}$    |         |
| Cr Haywood      |           |         |            |              |         |

### 10.ELECTED MEMBERS MOTION OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOITERRACE HAS BEEN GIVEN Nil

#### 11. NEW BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE AGREED TO BY RESOLUTION OF COUNCIL

**RESOLUTION: 769** 

Moved by Cr Barrett, seconded by Cr Butt that Council

1. Allow new business of an urgent nature.

CARRIED: 7/0

#### 11.1 REQUEST TO WRITE OFF RATES ON A394

| File Reference             | Rates 3.12 Outstanding and Collection   |
|----------------------------|---|
| Disclosure of Interest     | Nil                                     |
|                            |   |
| Applicant                  | Shire of Goomalling                     |
| Previous Item Numbers      | No Direct                               |
| Date                       | 21 March 2024                           |
| Author                     | Trudi Manera Finance/Rates Officer      |
| <b>Authorising Officer</b> | Peter Bentley – Chief Executive Officer |
| Attachments                |   |
| Nil                        |   |

#### Summary

Council is requested to write-off of the rate and penalty interest by absolute majority as per Section 6.12 of the Local Government Act 1995

#### **Background**

Location 27102 on plan 161963 was previously owned by Walter and John MILLSTEED. The property is a 700 m2 block comprising of virgin bush and rock and is located on the Northam Pithara Rd in Konnongorring.

Mr John Millsteed passed away in May 2022 and during the 2022/2023 rating year, his widow and now part owner, Mrs Elizabeth (Beth) Millsteed, contacted the Shire via telephone and email enquiring as to whether the Shire of Goomalling would take ownership of the location as Walter and Beth no longer wanted to keep paying rates on a property that was of no use to them. This offer was not accepted due to the rocky topography, vegetation and position making the property an unattractive asset. Mrs Millsteed was advised that she could approach Landgate and request to have the location returned to the state of Western Australia.

Rates were paid in full for the 2022-2023 rating year.

\_\_\_\_\_\_

Rates were raised in the 2023/2024 year and have remained unpaid. During a reconciliation of monthly outstanding rates, it became known that the property had indeed been returned to the state of Western Australia with the date of transfer being 18 December 2023.

The outstanding balance is \$1095.99 and is made up of the following:

| Rates 23/24            | \$1056.00 |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Penalty Interest 23/24 | \$ 39.99  |
| Rates write off        | \$1095.99 |

#### Consultation

Deputy Chief Executive Officer

#### **Statutory Environment**

Council is bound by the Local Government Act 1995 as follows:

#### 6.12. Power to defer, grant discounts, waive or write off debts

- (1) Subject to subsection (2) and any other written law, a local government may
  - (a) when adopting the annual budget, grant\* a discount or other incentive for the early payment of any amount of money; or
  - (b) waive or grant concessions in relation to any amount of money; or
  - (c) write off any amount of money, which is owed to the local government.
- \* Absolute majority required.
  - (2) Subsection (1)(a) and (b) do not apply to an amount of money owing in respect of rates and service charges.
  - (3) The grant of a concession under subsection (1)(b) may be subject to any conditions determined by the local government.
  - (4) Regulations may prescribe circumstances in which a local government is not to exercise a power under subsection (1) or regulate the exercise of that power.

[Section 6.12 amended: No. 64 of 1998 s. 39.]

#### **Policy Implications**

Nil

#### **Financial Implications**

The result of the write off will be a reduction of income as follows:

- Reduction of rates income in the 2023/24 financial year by \$1056.00
- Reduction in Penalty interest of \$39.99

#### **Strategic Implications**

Nil

#### **RESOLUTION: 770**

Moved by Cr Haywood, seconded by Cr Barratt that the Council:

1. Approved write off rates and penalty interest to the value of 1095.99 on rates assessment A394 as per Section 6.12 of Local Government Act 1995.

CARRIED: 7/0

|                 | For       | Against |            | For       | Against |
|-----------------|-----------|---------|------------|-----------|---------|
| Cr Chester      | $\sqrt{}$ |         | Cr Ashton  | $\sqrt{}$ |         |
| Cr Van Gelderen | $\sqrt{}$ |         | Cr Barratt | $\sqrt{}$ |         |
| Cr Butt         | $\sqrt{}$ |         | Cr Wilkes  | $\sqrt{}$ |         |
| Cr Haywood      | $\sqrt{}$ |         |            |           |         |

#### **Voting Requirements**

Absolute majority

#### **Comment/Conclusion**

Mrs Millsteed had sought to return the property to either the Shire of Goomalling and/or the WA State government well before the 2023-2024 rating year. Land transfers are known to be protracted and the fact that ownership remained with Millsteed's on 1 July 2023 was unfortunate rather than deliberate and, in this situation, I would respectfully request that Council approves

the write-off of rates and penalty interest to the value of \$1095.99 on rates assessment A394 as per Section 6.12 of the Local Government Act 1995.

#### 12. MATTERS BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

The meeting be closed to the public in accordance with section 5.23 Local Government Act 1995, 5.5.23 (2))

Matters affecting employee (s)

Personal affairs of any person (s), including financial and/or commercial contracts

Commercial Confidentiality

Legal advice/matters

Public safety/security matters where public knowledge may be prejudicial.

#### 13. INFORMTION BULLETIN

**RESOLUTION: 771** 

Moved by Cr Barratt, seconded by Cr Wilkes that the Information Bulletin for February 2024 has been received by Council.

CARRIED: 7/0

|                 | For       | Against |            | For | Against |
|-----------------|-----------|---------|------------|-----|---------|
| Cr Chester      | $\sqrt{}$ |         | Cr Ashton  | √   |         |
| Cr Van Gelderen | $\sqrt{}$ |         | Cr Barratt | √   |         |
| Cr Butt         | $\sqrt{}$ |         | Cr Wilkes  | √   |         |
| Cr Haywood      |           |         |            |     |         |

#### 14. MEETING CLOSURE

The President thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 5.30 pm