

Minutes

Ordinary Council Meeting

Held in Council Chambers, Wolfram Street Westonia Thursday 20 February 2020

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

These minutes were confirmed by the Council on 19th March 2020 as a true and accurate record of the Ordinary Council Meeting held 20th February 2020.

Cr Karin Day Shire President

All attachment items referred to in these minutes are available for public perusal at the Shire Office



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The Shire of Westonia warns that anyone who has any application lodged with the Shire of Westonia must obtain and should only rely on **WRITTEN CONFIRMATION** of the outcome of the application, and any conditions attaching to the decision made by the Shire of Westonia in respect of the application.

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1. DECLARATION OF OPENING

The President, Cr Day welcomed Councillors and staff and declared the meeting open at 3.42pm.

A minute silence was held as a mark of respect for the following former resident who recently passed away:

• Val Criddle

2. ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Councillors:

Cr KM Day President

Cr WJ Huxtable Deputy President Cr RS Corsini

Cr JJ Jefferys Cr RA Della Bosca Cr DL Geier

Staff:

Mr. JC Criddle Chief Executive Officer Mr AW Price Manager of Works

Members of the Public: Nil
Apologies: Nil
Approved Leave of Absence: Nil

3. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (3.45PM – 4.00PM)

Nil

4. APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

5. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 19th December 2019 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Geier Seconded: Cr Della Bosca

01/02-20 That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 19th December 2019 be

confirmed as a true and correct record.

6. RECEIVAL OF MINUTES

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

That the minutes of the Wheatbelt Communities Inc Meeting held via Teleconference on 17th December 2019 be received.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Corsini Seconded: Cr Huxtable

02/02-20 That the minutes of the Wheatbelt Communities Inc Meeting held via Teleconference on 17th

December 2019 be received.

CARRIED 6/0

7. PRESIDENT/COUNCILLORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The President, Cr Day advised having attended the following meetings:

- Australia Day celebrations in Westonia with Cr's Huxtable and Corsini.
- Annual Electors Meeting held in Westonia with the CEO, and Cr's Jefferys, Della Bosca, Geier and Huxtable.
- Wheatbelt Communities meeting with the CEO via Teleconference.

8. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

In accordance with Section 5.65 of the *Local Government Act 1995* the following disclosures of <u>Financial</u> interest were made at the Council meeting held on **20**th **February 2020.**

Name/Position	Jamie Criddle, Chief Executive Officer
Item No./Subject	9.1.7 CEO Contract Renewal
Nature of interest	Officer in Question
Extent of Interest	Financial

In accordance with Section 5.65 of the *Local Government Act 1995* the following disclosures of <u>Closely</u> <u>Association Person And Impartiality</u> interest were made at the Council meeting held on **20**th **February 2020.**

Name/Position	Jamie Criddle, Chief Executive Officer	
Item No./Subject	9.1.8 Merredin & Districts Junior Football Assoc (Colts)	
Nature of interest	CEO in President on Club	
Extent of Interest	Impartiality	

Name/Position	Jamie Criddle, Chief Executive Officer	
Item No./Subject	9.1.4 Request for Donation – Westonia CRC – Wessy Day on the Green	
Nature of interest	CEO is CRC Board Member	
Extent of Interest	Impartiality	

Name/Position	Cr Bill Huxtabler
Item No./Subject	9.1.4 Request for Donation – Westonia CRC – Wessy Day on the Green
Nature of interest	CEO is CRC Board Member
Extent of Interest	Impartiality

In accordance with Section 5.60B and 5.65 of the *Local Government Act 1995* the following disclosures of <u>Proximity</u> interest were made at the Council meeting held on **20**th **February 2020.**

Name/Position	
Item No./Subject	
Nature of interest	
Extent of Interest	

9. MATTERS REQUIRING A COUNCIL DECISION

9.1. GOVERNANCE, ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

9.1.1 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Responsible Officer: Jamie Criddle, CEO

Author: Jasmine Geier, Manager of Corporate Services

File Reference: F1.3.3 Monthly Financial Statements

Disclosure of Interest: Nil

Attachments: Attachment 9.1.1 List of Accounts

Signature: Officer CEO

Amon



Purpose of the Report

☐ Executive Decision



Legislative Requirement



Background

This information is provided to Council on a monthly basis in accordance with provisions of the Local Government Act 1995 and Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996. A Local Government is to develop procedures for the authorisation of, and payment of, accounts to ensure that there is effective security for, which money or other benefits may be obtained.



Comment

Attached is a copy of Accounts for Payment for the month of December 2019 & January 2020. The credit card statements currently show: -

CEO

December 2019 \$4,638.29 associated with the purchase of Activ8inet Housing & Office, Fuel, Email Exchange Platform, Kay Retirement Dinner and Refreshments, IICase, Merredin Flowers, Council IPad Recharge, JBL Speaker @ Pool & Purchase Interest

January 2020 \$1061.57 \$ associated with the purchase of Activ8inet Housing & Office, Fuel, Email Exchange Platform, Screen Display Ports, Industrial Fan Gym, Refreshments & Purchase Interest

Works Supervisor

December 2019 \$834.00 associated with the purchase Folder Tables at Stadium, Contractor Refreshments Xmas Dinner

January 2020 \$-397.92 associated with the purchase \$100 Gift Card, and Refund from Western Power.



Statutory Environment

Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 Regulations 12 & 13 requires the list of accounts to be presented to Council. Payments are made by staff under delegated authority from the CEO and Council.



Council does not have a policy in relation to payment of accounts.



Strategic Implications

Accounts for payment are presented to Council in the interests of accountability and provide information on Council expenditure.



Financial Implications

Expenditure in accordance with the 2019/2020 Annual Budget.



Voting Requirements

 \times

Simple Majority

Absolute Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

That December 2019 accounts submitted to today's meeting on Municipal vouchers numbered from 3819 to 3831, and D/Debits from EFT4043 to EFT4110 Inclusive of Department for Planning and Infrastructure / Creditor and Bank Fees Directly Debited and Visa Card Payments) totalling \$1,137,602.83 be passed for payment.

That January 2020 accounts submitted to today's meeting on Municipal vouchers numbered from 3832 to 3834, and D/Debits from EFT4111 to EFT4164 Inclusive of Department for Planning and Infrastructure / Creditor and Bank Fees Directly Debited and Visa Card Payments) totalling \$607,135.36 be passed for payment.

RESOLUTION

Moved:

Cr Corsini

Seconded:

Cr Geier

03/02-20

That December 2019 accounts submitted to today's meeting on Municipal vouchers numbered from 3819 to 3831, and D/Debits from EFT4043 to EFT4110 Inclusive of Department for Planning and Infrastructure / Creditor and Bank Fees Directly Debited and Visa Card Payments) totalling \$1,137,602.83 be passed for payment.

That January 2020 accounts submitted to today's meeting on Municipal vouchers numbered from 3832 to 3834, and D/Debits from EFT4111 to EFT4164 Inclusive of Department for Planning and Infrastructure / Creditor and Bank Fees Directly Debited and Visa Card Payments) totalling \$607,135.36 be passed for payment.

MONTHLY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY - DECEMBER 2019 & JANUARY 2020 9.1.2

Responsible Officer: Jamie Criddle, CEO Author: Jasmine Geier, Manager of Corporate Services File Reference: F1.3.3 Monthly Financial Statements **Disclosure of Interest:** Attachments: Attachment 9.1.2 Monthly Statement of Financial Activity

CEO

Signature: Officer



Purpose of the Report

Executive Decision



Legislative Requirement



Background

This information is provided to Council on a monthly basis in accordance with provisions of the Local Government Act 1995 and Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996.



Comment

The Monthly Statement of Financial Activity for the period ending December 2019 & January 2020 is attached for Councillor information, and consists of:

- Summary of Bank Balances 1
- 2. **Summary of Outstanding Debtors**
- 3. **Balance Sheet**
- 4. **Budget v Actuals Schedules**



Statutory Environment

General Financial Management of Council Council 2019/2020 Budget Local Government (Financial Management) Regulation 34 1996 Local Government Act 1995 section 6.4



Policy Implications

Council is required annually to adopt a policy on what it considers to be material as far as variances that require to be reported for Council. Council policy is that the material variation be set at \$10,000 and 15%.



Strategic Implications

The Monthly Statement of Financial Activity is a record of Council's activities and financial performance during the reporting period.



Financial Implications

There is no direct financial implication in relation to this matter.



Voting Requirements

X

Simple Majority

ı	

Absolute Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council adopt the Monthly Financial Report for the period ending December 2019 & January 2020 and note any material variances greater than \$10,000 or 15%.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Geier Seconded: Cr Della Bosca

04/02-20 That Council adopt the Monthly Financial Report for the period ending December 2019 &

January 2020 and note any material variances greater than \$10,000 or 15%.

9.1.3 GST RECONCILIATION REPORT – DECEMBER 2019 & JANUARY 2020

Responsible Officer:		Jamie Criddle, CEO				
Author:		Jasmine Geier, Manager of Corporate Services				
File Reference:		F1.4.4 Audit Report				
	losure of Interest:	Nil				
Attachments:		Attachment 9.1.3 GST Report				
Sign	ature:	Officer CEO				
		June June				
	Purpose of the Report					
	Executive Decision	Legislative Requirement				
	Background					
		SST Ledger to the General Ledger as reported as at 30 th November 2019 is basis as a means of keeping Council informed of its current GST liability.				
	Comment					
The G	ST Reconciliation Report is	attached for Councillor consideration.				
	Statutory Environment					
Nil	_					
	Policy Implications					
Coun	cil does not have a policy in	regard to Goods and Services Tax.				
	Strategic Implications					
Nil	_					
	Financial Implications					
The GST reconciliation is presented has an impact on Council's cash-flow		ted to Council as a means of indicating Council's current GST liability, which flow.				
	Voting Requirements					
\boxtimes	Simple Majority	Absolute Majority				
OFF	ICER RECOMMENDATIONS					

That the GST Reconciliation totaling \$79,154.00 for the period ending December 2019 adopted.

That the GST Reconciliation totaling (Refund \$17,363.00) for the period ending January 2020 adopted.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Corsini Seconded: Cr Della Bosca

05/02-20

That the GST Reconciliation totaling \$79,154.00 for the period ending December 2019

adopted.

That the GST Reconciliation totaling (Refund \$17,363.00) for the period ending January

2020 adopted.

Jamie Criddle, CEO & Cr Bill Huxtable declared an interest in item 9.1.4 Request for donation – Westonia CRC – Wessy Day on the Green as they are both board members of the Westonia CRC.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Geier Seconded: Cr Jefferys

06/02-20

That the CEO, Jamie Criddle and Cr Huxtable be allowed to resume in the meeting to

participate in discussion.

CARRIED 5/0

Jamie Criddle, CEO & Cr Bill Huxtable left the meeting at 4.33pm.

9.1.4 REQUEST FOR DONATION – WESTONIA CRC – WESSY DAY ON THE GREEN

Responsible Officer: Jamie Criddle, CEO **Author:** Jamie Criddle, CEO

File Reference: ES1.6.1
Disclosure of Interest: Nil
Attachments: Nil

Signature: Officer CEO

Anno

Purpose of the Report

Executive Decision Legislative Requirement



Background

On the ANZAC weekend, the Westonia Community Resource Centre in conjunction with the Shire of Westonia will be holding a community event labeled "Wessy Day on The Green" which will incorporate the Annual North vs South Cricket Game, Food stalls, Kids entertainment, Sophie-Jane Band in the evening, Sunday morning markets and Opening of the New Golf Club extensions.



Comment

The Westonia CRC are requesting a financial contribution toward the running of the day. It is hoped that between the Shire and the Westonia Progress Association that the kids entertainment could be covered. It is hoped that the two groups would contribute up to \$2,000 to the day.

The Shire has highlighted the continued support of Community Fun Days by the Westonia Community Resource Centre such as "Wessy Day on The Green" in the Strategic Community Plan.



Statutory Environment

N/A



Policy Implications

N/A



- 2. ENHANCED SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY WELL BEING
- 2.1 Facilitate the provision of recreational and leisure opportunities
- 2.2 Provide facilities and programs for health and well-being needs
- 2.3 Our children, youth, families and seniors are valued, involved and supported



Financial Implications

A Contribution of up to \$2,000 could be covered under Members Donations or Public Relations accounts.

	Voting Requirements		
\boxtimes	Simple Majority	Absolute Majority	
OFFIC	CER RECOMMENDATIONS		

That Council agrees to contribute an amount of up to \$2,000 towards the Wessy Day on the Green event to be hosted in Westonia on the ANZAC weekend.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Geier Seconded:

Cr Della Bosca

07/02-20 That Council agrees to contribute an amount of up to \$2,000 towards the Wessy Day on the

Green event to be hosted in Westonia on the ANZAC weekend.

CARRIED 5/0

Jamie Criddle, CEO & Cr Bill Huxtable re-entered the meeting at 4.35pm.

9.1.5 COMPLIANCE AUDIT RETURN 2019

Responsible Officer:

Author:

Jamie Criddle, CEO

Jamie Criddle, CEO

File Reference:

ES1.6.1

Disclosure of Interest:

Nil

Attachments:

Nil

Signature:

Officer

CEO



Purpose of the Report

Executive Decision





Background

In accordance with the Local Government (Audit) Regulations 1996, a local government is required to carry out a compliance audit for the period 1st January to 31st December each year against the requirements included in the Compliance Audit Return (CAR).

The completed CAR is required to be presented to Council for consideration and adoption, signed by the Shire President and CEO and subsequently submitted to the Director General of the Department of Local Government before 31st March.



Comment

The Compliance Audit Return has been a mandatory requirement since the Local Government (Audit) Regulations 1999, were amended and made applicable from 1 January 2000.

All senior staff have been involved in the completion of the Compliance Audit Return, certifying their actions and that of the Council, relating to the return covering the 2019 calendar year.

Staff involved and included in the process included;

- Chief Executive Officer
- Manager Corporate Services
- Works Supervisor

The Return is to be jointly certified by the Shire President and the Chief Executive and subsequently submitted to the Director General of the Department of Local Government before 31st March.

Additionally, staffing levels in small local governments are such that we do not have the quantum or degree of specialisation available to larger local governments. Hence not every question in the CAR has been "fully" researched as to absolute accuracy. The responses are based on some research and memory and made in good faith.



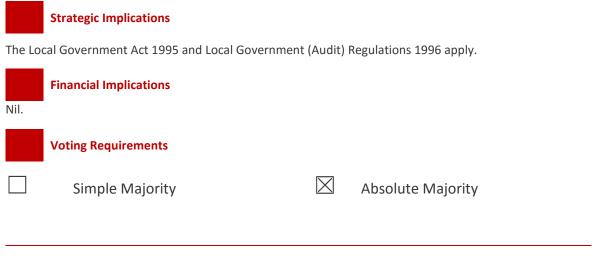
Statutory Environment

Local Government (Audit) Regulations 1996 – Regulations 13, 14 & 15 – Compliance Audit Returns.



Policy Implications

Council does not have a policy in relation to this matter.



OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council as per the Audit Committee:

- 1. receives the Compliance Audit Return 2019; and
- 2. recommends to Council that the Compliance Audit Return 2019 be endorsed and authorise the Shire President and CEO to sign the CAR for dispatch to the Department of Local Government as per the requirements of the Local Government Act 1995.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Corsini Seconded: Cr Huxtable

08/02-20 That Council as per the Audit Committee recommendation:

- 1. receives the Compliance Audit Return 2019; and
- 2. recommends to Council that the Compliance Audit Return 2019 be endorsed and authorise the Shire President and CEO to sign the CAR for dispatch to the Department of Local Government as per the requirements of the Local Government Act 1995.

Executive summary

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9.1.6 FEDERAL GOVERNMENT DROUGHT ASSISTANCE (DROUGHT COMMUNITIES PROGRAM)

Respo	nsible Officer:	Jamie Criddle, CEO		
Autho	r:	Jamie Criddle, CEO		
File Re	eference:	ES1.6.1		
Disclo	sure of Interest:	Nil		
Attack	nments:	Nil		
Signat	ure:	Officer		CEO
				A.
				JIMM
	Purpose of the Report			
	ruipose oi tile Report			
	Executive Decision		\boxtimes	Legislative Requirement
	Background			
	Dackground			

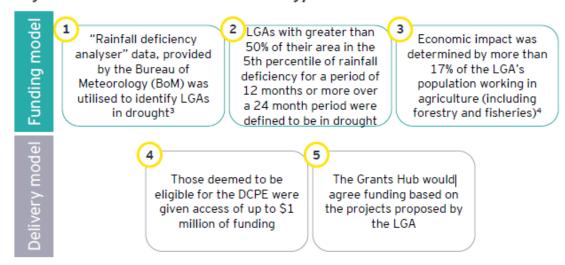
- Drought continues to be an enduring part of the Australian landscape with States and Territories around the country continuing to declare drought and request support, including from the Commonwealth Government
- On the 14th of November 2019 EY commenced a review of the Drought Communities Programme Extension (DCPE). The findings of this review indicated that the programme had many strengths including providing much needed rapid economic stimulus for communities affected by drought. The review also found a number of areas for improvement. Our recommendations included developing an interim funding model along with a broader refresh of the programme. These are detailed in our report titled "How can the DCPE be designed to rapidly respond to the effects of drought through economic stimulus?" from the 9th of January 2020
- This paper outlines the interim funding methodology, which has been developed to enable further immediate funding to be made available to Local Government Areas (LGAs) which are being economically impacted by drought. This recognises that a broader refresh of the program takes longer to complete
- To enable rapid stimulus, two options of interim funding methodology have been considered. One being simplified while the other is enhanced
- The simplified interim methodology:
 - Targets LGAs that have not received drought assistance funding under the DCPE
 - Uses a single time period of consecutive rainfall deficiency and uses a more widely used rainfall deficiency indicator
 - Expands and adjusts data sets to include downstream agricultural employment and focuses on hours worked in overall employment in the LGA
 - Uses a two tier system of funding to ensure adequate funding is supplied to LGAs based on size (as measured using population)
- The enhanced methodology:
 - Targets LGAs that have not received drought assistance funding under the DCPE
 - Multiple time periods are used and weighted to review rainfall deficiency, using a more widely used rainfall deficiency indicator
 - Increases the data sets used to include the absolute employment numbers in agricultural and downstream industries, weighted against the figures as a percentage of overall employment in the LGA. This is measured using hours worked in overall employment in the LGA

- Allocates funding based on a matrix assessment of need, along with a three tiered assessment of funding using LGA size (as measured using population)
- While this interim methodology has been developed to improve the identification of drought conditions and the wider economic exposure to those conditions, it is limited to internal analysis performed by EY. It could be further developed and refined through consultation with relevant Government agencies and impacted regions. These limitations should be addressed in the broader programme refresh

The purpose of this engagement is to recommend interim adjustments to the current DCPE as a solution for allocating grants to drought-affected communities

- Drought continues to be an enduring part of the Australian landscape with States and Territories continuing to declare drought and request support, including from the Commonwealth Government
- With 100% of NSW declared to be in drought or drought- affected¹, and another 67.4% of QLD being declared to be in drought on the 1st of December 2019², it is clear that economies impacted by the drought are still in need of rapid stimulus activity

Figure 3: Previous DCPE methodology



- The review titled "How can the DCPE be designed to rapidly
 respondtotheeffects of drought through economic stimulus?", identified that the current DCPE had many
 strengths including providing much needed rapid economic stimulus for communities affected by drought.
 However, there has been several opportunities for improvement identified
- The purpose of this programmer emains to provide rapid economic stimulus to communities that are impacted by drought. As identified in our previous report, a range of other programs are targeting other stakeholders (such as farmers) that are also impacted by drought
- While the Government considers the review and any subsequent actions, this interim funding
 methodology has been developed to inform the allocation of further immediate funding to LGAs which
 are being impacted by drought. The focus of this interim model is on the funding model as shown in Figure
 3, with the delivery model to remain unchanged
- The interim funding model was developed in a three-week period in close liaison with the Department
- This report provides an overview of the interim methodology developed

The simplified interim funding model involves three stages to identify funding for eligible communities

1

Evaluate the severity of drought for each LGA using 24 month rainfall deficiency data

- Rainfall deficiency over 24 consecutive months is used as the primary indicator of drought
- This is measured using % of the LGA which has been rainfall deficient in the 5th percentile
- A 5th percentile rainfall deficiency indicates the lowest 5% of rainfall in the LGA since 1900
- ► LGAs with more than 50% of the area in the 5th percentile are deemed to be eligible for step 2
- Data is obtained from the Bureau of Meteorology and is current up until the 30th of November 2019

2

Evaluate the exposure to economic impact as a result of drought by analysing employment data for each LGA

- Economic exposure is determined by reviewing the agricultural (excluding forestry and fisheries) and related downstream employment¹ in the LGA
- ► The employment figures are measured as the % of hours worked as a proportion of overall employment in the LGA, by place of residence
- The agricultural and downstream employment percentages are added together to give an overall economic exposure percentage
- ► LGAs that meet step 1 are then ranked by the economic exposure percentage
- Data is obtained from the 2016 Census and is measured according to the number of full time equivalent workers (FTE) who reside in the LGA

3

Funding amount is scaled based on LGA population

- ► LGAs are ranked by economic exposure percentage
- Those with Modified Monash Model (MMM) ratings of 1 are removed as these areas are considered metropolitan and generally have less exposure to the economic impacts of drought. MMM 2's (inner regional) may be considered subject to ministerial judgement
- ► LGAs with a population above 1,000 are allocated \$1m
- ► LGAs with a population below 1,000 are allocated \$500k
- LGAs that have previously received funding are removed, as they have recently been funded and are working on DCPE projects
- Final funding decisions are made by the Minister for Water Resources, Drought, Rural Finance, Natural Disaster and Emergency Management

The enhanced interim funding model involves four stages to identify funding for eligible communities

1

Evaluate the severity of drought for each LGA using a 'drought index'

- Rainfall deficiency is used as the primary indicator of drought. This is measured using % of the LGA which has been rainfall deficient
- A drought index (between 0 and 1), is determined using the 5th percentile rainfall deficiency which indicates the lowest 5% of rainfall since 1900, using four time periods
- Longer time periods (e.g. 48 months) are more heavily weighted
- An index of 0 indicates that a LGA has no measured average rainfall deficiency in the 5th percentile
- An index of 1 indicates that 100% of the LGA is in the 5th percentile of deficiency

2

Evaluate the exposure to economic impact as a result of drought using an 'economic index'

- A factor model is used to assess exposure to economic impact as a result of drought, and allocate it into an interim economic index (between 0 and 1)
- ► Factors used to determine the index include employment in the agriculture sector (excluding forestry and fisheries) and downstream processing (relative and absolute measures)
- ► An index of 0 indicates that the LGA is less likely to be economically impacted
- An index of 1 indicates that the LGA is likely to be significantly economically impacted

3

overall categorisation of funding need

Combine indices to obtain an

- ► Funding need is identified using the drought and economic indices
- Locations which have:
- Large and diverse economies such as Metropolitan areas, are removed using the MMM.
 These areas generally have less exposure to the economic impacts of drought
- Previously received funding are also removed, as they are working on DCPE projects already

Low	Urgent	Critical
Low	Beneficial	Urgent
Low	Low	Beneficial

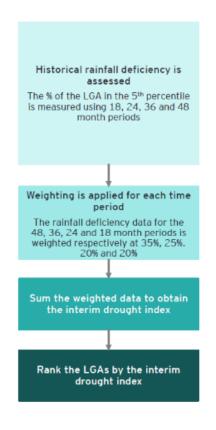
Funding amount is scaled based on need and LGA population

 Funding is allocated based on the level of need and population of the LGA

Level	Population	Funding Allocation
Critical	>15 000	\$1 million
Critical	<15 000	\$750K
Urgent	>5000	\$750K
Critical	<5000	\$500k
Urgent	<5000	\$500k
Beneficial	>0	\$500k

 Final funding decisions are made by the Minister for Water Resources, Drought, Rural Finance, Natural Disaster and Emergency Management

Evaluating the severity of drought for each LGA is based primarily on rainfall deficiency



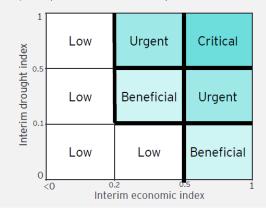
- The BoM designates rainfall totals significantly lower than the average (over the
 record from 1900) for a given period at a given location as a rainfall deficiency. A
 percentile is a value where a certain percentage of observations fall below that
 value. Therefore, the 5th percentile is defined as the lowest 5% of rainfall totals since
 circa 1900 for a particular location (e.g. LGA) over a particular time period (e.g. 24
 months)
- 5th percentile data is used. This therefore captures the LGAs suffering the most extreme rainfall deficiency relative to other percentiles for each respective period
- A prolonged duration of rainfall deficiency is best measured by longer time periods.
 We have therefore selected 48, 36, 24 and 18 month periods to indicate drought
- As 12 months is not a clear indicator of a prolonged deficiency, we have used 18 months as the minimum period duration
- In order to capture the regions experiencing drought for a significant period of time, whilst still being in immediate need, we have selected periods from 18 to 48 months
- In line with the prolonged duration of drought, longer time periods are weighted more heavily than that of the shorter time periods
- As such, regions experiencing drought for a significant period of time are identified as being in greater need than that of regions only recently suffering from drought
- 5th percentile data is extracted for each of the identified time periods (48, 36, 24 and 18 months)
- The total interim drought index is calculated by summing the weighted rainfall deficiency percentage
- The index ranges between 0 and 1
- An index of 0 indicates that a LGA has no measured average rainfall deficiency at the 5th percentile
- An index of 1 indicates that 100% of the LGA is in the 5th percentile of deficiency over each time period
- All LGAs in Australia are ranked

Funding is allocated according to the assessed level of funding need and the size of the LGA

4

Assessed level of funding need

- LGAs are allocated into defined levels of need based on their interim drought and economic indices
- Each level determines the maximum funding that can be received by each LGA
- The eligibility calculation therefore weights drought and economics together. This ensures the key purpose of the DCPE is being met, assisting communities that are economically impacted by the effects of drought
- Thresholds have been determined based on their correlation to the purpose of the DCPE
- LGAs that have a MMM score of 1 or 2 do not meet eligibility criteria and are removed. Unincorporated areas should be separately listed for consideration by the Minister



LGA size

3

- Allocation of funding is then apportioned based on the size of the LGA, measured in terms of set population thresholds
- This is intended to provide an appropriate level of funding to LGAs with an assessed funding need, with the size of the community being considered

Level	Population	Funding Allocation	
Critical	>15 000	\$1 million	
Critical	<15 000	\$750K	
Urgent	>5000	\$750K	
Critical	<5000	\$500k	
Urgent	<5000	\$500k	
Beneficial	>0	\$500k	
Low	>0	Not Eligible	

Ranking within levels

 LGAs within each level are ranked using the interim economic index. This is because the purpose of the DCPE is to assist communities economically affected by drought

We applied key findings from our review of the existing DCPE programme, applying thresholds for more flexible decision-making

- The review of the current DCPE indicated that metrics were used too rigidly to account for the complex nature of communities
 economically impacted by drought. This resulted in some LGAs not being considered for the DCPE despite potentially being in need
- In response to this limitation, thresholds have been applied across the interim model, enabling increased flexibility for both the eligibility of LGAs for the DCPE and the amount of funding which is provided
- Eligibility of LGAs and funding provided within the thresholds is at the discretion of the Minister
 Metric
 Threshold
 Rationale

	1111 0011010	national c		
Drought index	10%	 When categorising LGAs to levels of assessed need based on the process outlined on page 8, the following thresholds are applied to the drought and economic index factors respectively: Drought Index threshold: 0.1, 0.5 		
Economic index	10%	 Economic Index threshold: 0.2, 0.5 By applying a discretionary threshold, LGAs with drought or economic indexes within 10% of these thresholds may be considered eligible to ensure LGAs do not miss out based on marginal factors 		
Population	10%	 The 10% threshold applied to the population thresholds impacts the scalability of funding The maximum funding available to LGAs is determined by their assessed level of need, scaled by population Therefore, by applying a 10% variance to this factor, LGAs with populations within the applicable ranges may be eligible for increased funding 		
Modified Monash Model	Change rating 2 to be eligible	 To ensure that funding is allocated to regional LGAs experiencing drought and the associated economic impacts on drought, funding to LGAs with Modified Monash Model (MMM) ratings of 1 or 2 are excluded Ministerial judgment may be applied to consider any LGAs with MMM ratings of 2, making these LGAs eligible for funding allocation where they meet the drought and economic index factors 		
Short-term deficiency and actual rainfall consideration	6 months	 The following rainfall data can also be considered: 6 month rainfall deficiency in the 10th percentile 6 month actual rainfall (absolute measure) Although this data is not an input within the model itself, the inclusion of this data as a consideration for the application of Ministerial judgment could ensure that LGAs impacted by drought, with the greatest assessed need, receive funding by identifying LGAs that may have received significant rainfall in the last 6 months 		

The interim methodology has several key limitations - these should be considered in the programme refresh

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Previously funded LGAs are excluded

LGAs that have previously received funding under the DCPE are not considered for the interim methodology as they recently
received funding and are working on DCPE projects. While many LGAs may have sufficient funding, and some may have limited
capacity for further immediate stimulus, some may warrant additional funds. This has not been investigated as part of this
engagement

Time limitation on interim method development

The current effects of drought require a rapid allocation of funds to enable economic stimulus. This has impacted the ability to investigate all data options to include in the methodology. It could be further developed and refined through consultation with relevant government agencies and impacted regions

LGA and other stakeholder engagement

 No LGA engagement activity has been conducted beyond the Department providing insight on their experiences. This is due to time constraints and the nature of developing this methodology as an interim approach for DCPE

Eligibility and capped funding allocation is the focus of this engagement

- The methodology developed covers the identification of LGAs available for funding only, it does not include changes to the mode of delivery
- As there is no universal definition of drought, Federal and State declarations of drought-affected areas may vary and therefore, may not be accurately identified
- The amount of funding able to be allocated is capped at the current \$50 million of DCPE funds available
- Thresholds applied may need to be re-configured for subsequent iterations of this interim model

Data from external sources is relied upon

Data relied on is provided by1:

- The Department of Health
- The Bureau of Meteorology (BoM)
- ► The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)

Data analysis

limitations

- By utilising only historical rainfall data, forecasted rainfall is not considered and therefore any fluctuations in future rainfall
 patterns are not accounted for
- As rainfall deficiency data is derived on an individual LGA basis, relative to that LGA's historical rainfall deficiency, prolonged drought may not be identified
- Census data used to determine the economic impacts of drought is dated 2016 and therefore may not be an accurate reflection of the current economic climate. Additionally, the nature of data collection for transient workforces in the Census notes their place of residence and their location on the day of the Census
- The model focuses on the impacts of drought on an LGA boundary basis, therefore, cross-LGA downstream impacts may not be identified (for example, an LGA not in drought but being impacted as a result of downstream processing activity)
- The determination of a "drought-affected area" is based on rainfall deficiency in the 5th percentile. It does not include other environmental factors such as soil moisture, temperature and whether the rainfall detected was during a beneficial period. The implications of onset desertification have not been considered and individual local conditions are not reflected



Comment

It is clear that the Federal Governments Methodology implemented for this current round of Drought Communities Program is flawed in relation to communities that already have an existing low rainfall which is why communities such as Bruce Rock, Kellerberrin, Albany and Busselton are eligible.



Statutory Environment



Policy Implications

Council does not have a policy in relation to this matter.



Strategic Implications



Financial Implications

Nil.

Voting Requirements

☐ Absolute Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

Council Direction is Sought

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Della Bosca Seconded: Cr Jefferys

09/02-20 That Council authorise the Chief Executive Officer to correspond to the Prime Minister, Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management, Leader of the Opposition and State Politicians opposing the methodology surrounding the Drought Communities Programme Extension (DCPE), highlighting rainfall and temperature statistics for the past couple of years

and the fact that landholders have been forced into selling to international and national

corporate farmers due to the poor conditions on the land over serval years.

Jamie Criddle, CEO declared an interest in item 9.1.7 Chief Executive Officer Contract Renewal as he is the officer in question and left the meeting at 5.52pm.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Geier Seconded: Cr Jefferys

10/02-20

In accordance with Section 5.23(2) of the Local Government Act 1995, the meeting is closed to the members of the public at 5.52pm for this item as the following sub-section applied:

(b) the personal affairs of any person;

CARRIED 6/0

9.1.7 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER CONTRACT RENEWAL

Responsible Officer: Jamie Criddle, CEO
Author: Jamie Criddle, CEO
File Reference: Personnel File

Disclosure of Interest: Nil
Attachments: Nil

Signature: Officer CEO

Jana

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Geier Seconded: Cr Huxtable

12/02-20

That the meeting be re-opened to the public at 6.02pm

9.2 COMMUNITY AND REGULATORY SERVICE

NIL

9.3 WORKS AND SERVICE

NIL

9.4 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH, PLANNING AND BUILDING SERVICES

NIL

10 ELECTED MEMBERS MOTIONS OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

11 NEW BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE INTRODUCED BY A DECISION OF THE MEETING

RESOLUTION					
Moved:	Cr Corsini		Seconde	d: Cr Huxtal	ble
13/02-20	That Council acc	epts one (1) item of	business of	an urgent nature.	CARRIED 6/
Association Per	rson And Impartia 17.1.8 Merredin 8	=	e made. Jan	nie Criddle, Chief E	isclosures of Closely xecutive Officer declared an is the Colts President and was
		STRICTS JUNIOR		L ASSOCIATION	(COLTS)
Responsible (Author:	officer:	Jamie Criddle, C Jamie Criddle, C			
File Reference					
Disclosure of Attachments:		Jamie Criddle, P Nil	resident of	the MDJFA (Colts)	with son playing U16's
Signature:	•	Officer		CEO	
					Jamo
Purpos	se of the Report				
Ex	ecutive Decision			Legislative Requi	rement
Summ	ary				

Background

The Merredin & Districts Junior Football Association (Colts) have made a formal request for the use of the Westonia Community Bus to travel to six (6) away games in the towns of Northam, Toodyay and York. Their request comes on the back of an offer made last season from Council to use the Westonia Community Bus free of charge on the proviso that fuel costs were covered by a third party (namely Liberty Fuels). As the CEO is now directly involved in the club, as President of the Colts committee and a son, Harrison playing in the under 16's, the CEO felt that while there is no financial gain involved, there is a perceived conflict of interest and requests that the decision on the use of the bus be in the hands of the Council.



Comment

Up to 6 kids located in and around the Westonia district as well as several "Burracoppin Football Club" kids would be catching the bus on these occasions.

The main reason for requiring the bus is due to the large amount of disadvantage kids in the Merredin & surrounding area from broken homes etc that may not be able to play football without such transport. There is also a large portion of the families still involved with either local senior football (Burracoppin & Nukarni) or local netball, Hockey (senior & junior) who need a parent to follow either sport.

The MDJFA (Colts) are currently actively pursuing a sponsor (Liberty Fuels) for the fuel side of the project to help keep the overall cost to nil.

The MDJFA (Colts) would not utilise this bus or any other if it was required to pay a rate per kilometre and another alternative would need to be sourced.

If Council were to approve the request, the MDJFA (Colts) would promote the Shire of Westonia as a major sponsor of the association.



Statutory Environment

Nil



Policy Implications

Delegation MISC 1 – Donations allows the CEO to approve requests for donation of monies up to the value of \$100.00



Strategic Implications

Nil.



Financial Implications

Council would not be receiving the fee for the bus hire @ .88c/km and would still be liable for maintenance costs such as tyres & servicing.



Voting Requirements

 \boxtimes

Simple Majority

Absolute Majority

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council approves the request of the Merredin & Districts Junior Football Association (Colts) for the use of the Westonia Community Bus to travel to six (6) away games in the towns of Northam, Toodyay and York at no charge other than fuel.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Geier

Seconded:

Cr Jefferys

14/02-20

That Council approves the request of the Merredin & Districts Junior Football Association (Colts) for the use of the Westonia Community Bus to travel to six (6) away games in the towns of Northam, Toodyay and York at no charge other than fuel.

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CARRIED 6/0

12 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next ordinary meeting of Council will be held on 19^{th} March 2020 commencing at $3.30 \, \text{pm}$

13 MEETING CLOSURE

There being no further business the President, Cr Day declared the meeting closed at 5.22pm