

City of Greater Geraldton

# Mullewa Services Summit Report

October 2016



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## Background

In June 2016 the City of Greater Geraldton received a letter from the Mullewa Community Group Inc. regarding a radio interview Mullewa Ward Councillors gave in May. The interview was about discussions they had been having with Chapman Valley about Local Government boundary changes for the Mullewa Ward. According to the letter, the interview had sparked significant discussion within the community regarding the outcomes of the amalgamation and the future of Mullewa when the MOU with the Geraldton comes to an end in 2019.

The Group requested the City conduct a review of the outcomes of amalgamation and present the results to the community for the purpose of discussion. Rather than just releasing the outcomes of the amalgamation to the community, the City decided to take the opportunity to engage with the community about the services being provided and to get a better understanding of the type of representation the community wanted after the MOU expires.

## Engaging with the Mullewa Community

The City implemented a staged approach to engage with the Mullewa community which began with a community survey and was followed by the two-part Mullewa Services Summit workshop series.

The objectives of the Summit were:

- a) To prioritise the range of services provided to the Mullewa Community and make recommendations to Council on service level provision.
- b) To identify possible options for representation of the Mullewa community after the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with the City expires in 2019.

The results of the Summit will also be used to inform the development of Mullewa priorities for the City of Greater Geraldton Strategic Community Plan and to inform Council's ongoing deliberations regarding the future representation of Mullewa after the MOU with the City expires in 2019.

Promotion of the Community Survey and Two-Part workshop series was widely undertaken and included; full page ads in the Mullewa Mail; Mullewa community database invitation emails and text messages; flyer letter box drop; posters displayed at various venues in Mullewa; numerous Facebook posts on the Mullewa Councillor and City Facebook pages; City website consultation page; a media release; and face-to-face invitations extended by Mullewa District Office staff members.

## Mullewa Community Survey

The Mullewa Community Survey was conducted to gain a better understanding of how well the City is meeting the needs of the Mullewa community and to assist in determining the types and level of services that are most important to residents. The survey was conducted from 5-15 September 2016 in which 99 responses were received. Members of the community had the option of completing the survey in either a hard copy format or via an online survey portal.

The survey captured resident feedback and aspirations regarding; the seven mandatory and 11 non-mandatory Council services currently being provided in Mullewa; additional services

the community would like to have provided; how the costs associated with providing a better level of service or additional services could be met; level of satisfaction with current Council service provision; changes that have taken place in the community since the amalgamation; and concerns about the future representation of Mullewa.

The results of the Community Survey were presented to workshop participants and used to inform their deliberations regarding service delivery prioritisation and making recommendations on their desired level of service provision. (See Appendix 1 - Page 13 - Mullewa Community Survey Results)

## Mullewa Services Summit Two-Part Workshop Series

Two, half day community workshops were held at the Mullewa Town Hall. The first workshop was attended by 35 residents who were seated at 7 small tables. The Mayor and two Councillors were also in attendance.

### Workshop 1 - Saturday 17 September 2016

The workshop began with Mayor Shane Van Styn welcoming members of the community to the Summit; Acknowledging Country; encouraging participation; and advising participants the results of the workshop would be used to inform Council decision making regarding service provision and future representation of Mullewa. (See Appendix 2 - page 24 - Workshop Agendas)

The Mayor's welcome was followed by a presentation by City Chief Executive Officer Ken Diehm on the outcomes of the amalgamation with the former City of Geraldton-Greenough. The presentation included information on:

- Historical context of the amalgamation;
- What's changed since the amalgamation;
- Amalgamation outcomes (projects, funding opportunities, etc...);
- How income is generated and what expenditure includes;
- Comparison of expenditure on key services from 2010-2016;
- Comparison between pre-amalgamation and the 2015/16 financial year expenditure;
- Projected benefits in the coming ten years;
- 2016/17 planned projects and renewal for the Mullewa area;
- The bottom line for the 2016/17 financial year; and
- Challenges the City and Council have to overcome.

(See Appendix 3 - page 25 - Amalgamation Outcomes Presentation)

The presentation was followed by a question and answer session. Workshop participants first discussed what they had heard at their tables and then wrote down questions they had regarding the presentation on index cards. Participants submitted 37 questions in writing of which seven were responded to by the CEO during the Question and Answer session. To ensure all questions received an answer, City staff compiled and presented written responses to all the question at the second workshop. (See Appendix 4 – page 30 - Responses to participant Questions)

The Question and Answer session was followed by initial Community Survey results regarding what people liked about living in Mullewa and what had changed since the amalgamation. One of the reoccurring themes in the Survey was about a reduction in, or loss of services provided by all levels of government, not-for-profit and the private sector. As this is

attributable to a declining population, participants were asked to deliberate at their tables how the population of Mullewa could be stabilised or grown. This was followed by a large group discussion where participants shared some of the ideas they came up with which including value adding to industries such as tourism, new services such as aged care or new opportunities around Aboriginal art and culture. Participants recorded 17 ideas which were later collected. The City compiled responses to their ideas which were presented at second workshop. (See Appendix 5 - page 36 - Ideas to Stabilise or Grow the Population of Mullewa)

Survey results regarding additional services the community thought should be provided were then presented to participants. Of the 25 services identified most of them fell within the responsibility of State government such as the health and education services, or the private/not-for-profit sector in relation to shops, Foodbank and better telecommunications. Participants were asked to identify any other services they believed should be provided to the community. Ideas were recorded at their tables on ideas index cards which were collected and shared with the larger group. The list below contains additional services identified in the Community Survey and during Workshop 1.

### List of Additional Services

Aged care	Day care/childcare centre
Groceries and free produce	Maintain hospital
Mullewa-Geraldton bus service	Safe House
Alcohol or drug support/counselling	Improved mobile phone/internet reception
Visitor Information Centre	Mullewa tourism information website
Maintain Doctor	Liquid waste facility
Playground	Heritage protection
Junior sporting group support	After school childcare
Bank	Children or youth events
CWA	Dentist (once a month)
Foodbank Outreach	Meals on Wheels
Recycling or recycling shop	Seniors Centre
Vehicle road worthy check centre	Retirement Homes
Open up a speedway	Primary school – State and private
More sporting opportunities	Social workers
A paid book keeper position to service a multitude of community groups	Free crèche service for community group volunteers
Child protection workers	Bakery or café
Dancing 2-3 times monthly in halls around the Ward	Reducing travel costs to entice trades to come to town
Sports events such as football, hockey, netball all on one day for adults and kids	Request local info/knowledge before making changes to roads/infrastructure
Health promotion services	

The workshop concluded with the distribution of the Mullewa Services Booklet and a final presentation regarding the content of the document which included:

- Definitions of mandatory and non-mandatory services;
- Definition of the term ‘net impact’; and

- The three options to refine service delivery which included:
  - service level to remain the same;
  - pay less for a reduced the level of service; and
  - pay more for a higher or improved level of service including two options to fund the increase which were:
    - increase rates; or
    - reduce another service level to cover the cost of improving the service in question.

Participants were requested to read their booklets and make preliminary choices regarding service level recommendations. They were also asked to make note of any questions they had regarding services as City staff would be on hand at the second workshop to provide answers. (See Appendix 6 - page 39 - Mullewa Services Booklet)

## Workshop 2 - Friday 7 October 2016

The second Mullewa Service Summit Workshop was attended by 50 residents and five Councillors. Participants were seated at five small tables and three large tables. CGG staff provided individual table facilitation to ensure everyone had a chance to have their say, ballots and forms were filled out and submitted accordingly and to answer questions.

Before the workshop began participants were asked to fill out a Services Recommendation Ballot with their preferred level of service for mandatory and non-mandatory services. Participants had three options to choose from.

- a) Level of service to remain the same or unchanged;
- b) Pay less for a reduced the level of service; and
- c) Pay more for a higher or improved level of service. If this option was chosen, participants then had to state which of the two funding options of either increasing rates or reducing another service level they preferred to cover the cost of improving the service in question.

The workshop began with a presentation of the Mullewa Community Survey results which included:

- Level of importance of mandatory and non-mandatory services;
- Level of importance of, and participation in, events and activities;
- Willingness to pay more rates to cover the costs associated with providing additional services;
- Willingness to reduce the level of one or more services to cover the cost of increasing the level of another service;
- Level of satisfaction or dissatisfaction with service provision; and
- What the City would need to change to get a higher rating.

(See Appendix 1 - page 13 - Mullewa Community Survey Results)

The Survey results presentation was followed by a 60-minute long deliberation session where participants were able to ask questions of CGG staff and make changes to their preliminary service level recommendations if they chose to do so. Some participants submitted written recommendations relating to the mandatory and non-mandatory services being delivered in



Mullewa. Recommendations included ways to deliver the service more efficiently; possible funding opportunities to reduce the cost of service delivery; or alternative delivery models for the services. At the end of the session Service Level Recommendation Ballots and written recommendation forms were collected.

Service Level Recommendation Ballots were received from 57 workshop participants with the following results listed in the table below. (See Appendix 8 - page 46 - Service Level Recommendation Ballot Tally)

### Service Level Recommendations for Mandatory and Non-Mandatory Services

The table below shows the percentage of participants who recommended the service level stay the same, pay less for a reduced service level or pay more for a higher level of service. The columns 'increase rates' or 'reduce other service level' refer to the percentage of participants who chose that option to fund their recommendation to increase the level of service. (e.g. Roads: 35% want to pay more for a better service. Of the 35% who chose this option, 42% recommended increasing rates whilst 26% recommended reducing another service level to fund the increase. Dashes (-) indicate no recommendation was made regarding how to fund the increased level of service.

Name of service	Remain the same	Pay less for less	Pay more for more	↑ Increase Rates	↓ Reduce other service level
1. Mullewa Branch Library Services	82%	16%	2%	-	-
2. Parks	89%	16%	6%	-	66%
3. Roads	60%	5%	35%	42%	26%
4. Buildings	59%	8%	16%	13%	50%
5. Ranger Services	77%	11%	11%	40%	40%
6. Rubbish Collection & Rubbish Tip	89%	11%	0%	-	-
7. Mullewa Cemetery Services	92%	4%	4%	50%	50%
8. Mullewa Youth Centre & Related Services	73%	20%	7%	-	25%
9. Customer Service-District Office Shop Front	80%	16%	4%	-	50%
10. Community & Cultural Workshops	65%	30%	5%	-	33%
11. Community Events	87%	2%	11%	-	66%
12. Mullewa Muster & Rodeo	82%	13%	5%	-	33%
13. Community Services Support	78%	9%	13%	29%	14%
14. Community Group Support	82%	13%	5%	-	100%
15. Vehicle & Driver Licensing Services	93%	2%	5%	33%	-
16. Caravan Park & Associated Services	90%	4%	6%	-	75%
17. Mullewa Local Airfield	91%	6%	3%	50%	50%
18. Swimming Pool & Associated Activities	90%	5%	5%	-	33%

Workshop participants also submitted 23 written recommendations regarding services. Only two of the four recommendations made to increase the level of service indicated how the increase was to be funded. Twenty-two detailed recommendations were received that either outlined specific actions to provide the service more efficiently or ideas on how to reduce the overall cost of providing the service. Similar recommendations have been combined into one for representation in the table below.

### Recommendation Details

Service	Recommended Change in Service Level	Recommendation Details
Parks	-	Plant trees on empty blocks to cool down the town and reduce water table level.
	-	Partner with MEEDAC to improve the wildflower pathway including path resurfacing and benches.
Roads	Increase level of service by reducing Parks service level	Use machinery and work longer hours to reduce travel to Mullewa.
	Increase the level of service by reducing Ranger Services and Rubbish Collection & Tip service level	-
	-	Undertake a more coordinated approach by including local input into identifying key freight routes for strategic renewal and maintenance.
Ranger Services	Increase level of service. No funding option stated	Implement free cat and dog sterilisation in town.
	-	Train and hire a local person to provide this service to reduce travel from Geraldton.
Rubbish Tip	-	Consider charging for rubbish disposal.
Customer Service	Reduce level of service	Reduce the number of staff. Hire rooms out to other service providers.
Community & Cultural Workshops	Reduce level of service	MAD and CRC should drive these projects with the City providing admin support and grant writing assistance.
Community Events	Reduce level of service	Discontinue support for the Rural Family Fun Day.
	Reduce level of service	Introduce a pay as you go bar to reduce costs at events.
	Reduce level of service	Consider having the CRC coordinate this event with support from the CGG.
	Reduce level of service	Combine with the Mullewa Muster and Rodeo
	Increase level of service. No funding option stated.	Bring back ANZAC Breakfast.
Community Services	Reduce level of service	Support for the CRC should be reduced.
Local Airfield	-	Apply for grant funding to seal the runway with blue metal.
Swimming Pool	-	Undertake pool checks after work hours and not between 10.00am and 3.00pm.

Dashes (-) indicate no change to the service level was recommended or details regarding the recommendation were excluded on the submission form.



## Prioritising Services

Following deliberations on service levels, participants were asked to prioritise mandatory and non-mandatory services currently provided by the CGG and additional services identified via the Community Survey and during Workshop 1. Participants were asked to place a tick on their ballot form beside the four mandatory and seven non-mandatory services they valued most; and the seven additional services they believe should be provided to the community. Service prioritisation ballots were received from 57 participants.

### Priority List of Mandatory Services

Name of service	% of votes	No. of Votes
Roads	93%	53
Rubbish Collection and the Rubbish Tip	75%	43
Parks	74%	42
Buildings	54%	31
Mullewa Cemetery Services	40%	23
Ranger Services	28%	16
Mullewa Branch Library Services	19%	11

### Priority List of Non-Mandatory Services

Name of Service	% of votes	No. of Votes
Swimming Pool and Associated Activities	83%	47
Mullewa Caravan Park and Associated Services	83%	47
Customer Service – District Office Shop Front	77%	44
Mullewa Youth Centre and Related Services	70%	40
Vehicle & Driver Licensing Services	70%	40
Mullewa Community Events	63%	36
Mullewa Muster & Rodeo – Signature Event	58%	33
Mullewa Community Services Support	56%	32
Mullewa Local Airfield	54%	31
Mullewa Community Groups Support	51%	29
Community and Cultural Workshops	33%	19

### Priority List of Additional Services

Name of Service	% of votes	No. of votes
Maintain hospital	91%	52
Maintain Doctor	84%	48
Aged care	70%	40
Mullewa-Geraldton bus service	35%	20
Improved mobile phone/internet reception	30%	17
Primary school – State and private	28%	16
Groceries & fresh produce	28%	16
Retirement Homes	26%	15
Dentist (once a month)	26%	15
Meals on Wheels	25%	14
Liquid waste facility	19%	11
Heritage protection	18%	10
Reducing travel costs to entice trades to come to town	16%	9

Request local info/knowledge before making changes to roads/infrastructure	16%	9
Visitor Information Centre	16%	9
Seniors Centre	16%	9
Sports events such as football, hockey, netball all on one day for adults and kids	16%	9
Alcohol or drug support/counselling	16%	9
Recycling or recycling shop	14%	8
Bakery or café	14%	8
Vehicle road worthy check centre	12%	7
Bank	11%	6
Foodbank Outreach	11%	6
Children or youth events	9%	5
Safe House	9%	5
Child protection workers	9%	5
Day care/childcare centre	7%	4
Mullewa tourism information website	7%	4
A paid book keeper position to service a multitude of community groups	7%	4
Health promotion services	7%	4
Social workers	7%	4
After school childcare	4%	2
More sporting opportunities	4%	2
Free crèche service for community group volunteers	2%	1
Dancing 2-3 times monthly in halls around the Ward	2%	1
Playground	2%	1
Junior sporting group support	2%	1
Open up a speedway	2%	1
CWA	0%	0

## Future Representation

The final workshop session was about the future representation of Mullewa after the MOU with the City expires in 2019. City Chief Executive Officer Ken Diehm presented survey results regarding the concerns Mullewa residents had about future representation which included:

- Being represented by a Councillor who doesn't live in the area or understands the needs of the rural community;
- No longer having a voice on Council; and
- Services being cut.

The survey results were followed by a presentation on the various representation options for consideration after the MOU with the City expires in 2019 which include:

- Local Government Act and Ward sizes;
- Rural and non-rural wards;
- No wards;
- Possible reduction of number of Councillors;
- Parish Council representation;

- Advisory Board representation; and
- Progress Association representation.

After the presentation small group discussions were held at the tables where participants deliberated what their preferred option for representation would be. The session ended with a large group discussion. The following comments were made during the large group discussion or were submitted in writing.

- Representation should include a chance for better representation of Aboriginal people;
- 1 Councillor for a Mullewa Ward with a larger rural area supported by an Advisory Council;
- No ward model preference;
- All Councillors should build a better rapport with Mullewa community if they are going to represent them;
- Formed and fixed representation. Models that don't have Councillor representation could run the risk of being temporary or short lived;
- Indigenous representation should be specified in the non-Councillor models;
- Document the Mullewa District Office;
- Secure the Office, budget, staffing level and services post 2019;
- Don't lose more than current level of representation;
- Losing identity 'Locality of Mullewa':
  - welcome to Locality of Mullewa as approaching – larger signs with wreath flowers
  - Fire weather warnings
- We need someone with rural experience to identify and advocate effectively for rural issue e.g. mobile phone services;
- No wards preferable to a ward structure which lumps Mullewa with an urban suburb; and
- If Mullewa doesn't have representation which satisfies resident concerns then a local council/board/association members need to be supported and recognised for the time it will take to do their job effectively (time to consult with the community, respond to queries, time to do preparation readings, time to attend meetings).

### Preferred Representation Options Post 2019

Representation option	% of votes	No. of votes
Rural and non-rural wards	24%	10
1 Mullewa Councillor	24%	10
Mullewa Shire – Investigate reverting to Shire	18%	8
Parish Council representation	14%	6
No Wards	11%	5
Advisory Board representation	4%	2
None of the above	4%	2
Local Government Act and Ward sizes	1%	1
Progress Association representation	0%	0
Possible reduction of number of Councillors	0%	0

## Further Participant Questions

Although City staff were on hand to answer questions during the second workshop eleven questions were submitted in writing. The City has provided written responses to these questions. (See APPENDIX 9 - page 47 - Additional Questions)

## Engaging with the Aboriginal Community

As participation by the Aboriginal community was low at both workshops Mullewa District Office staff met with the Aboriginal community after the two workshop. These additional meetings took place at the Mullewa Men's Shed.

The meetings followed the same format as the workshops, presenting information and gathering ideas regarding:

- How to stabilise or grow the population of Mullewa;
- Additional services to be provided to the Mullewa community;
- Making recommendations on preferred level of service;
- Prioritising mandatory, non-mandatory and additional services; and
- Discussing future representation options.

The results of the additional engagement have been included in the overall workshop results.

## APPENDICES

### APPENDIX 1 - Mullewa Community Survey Results

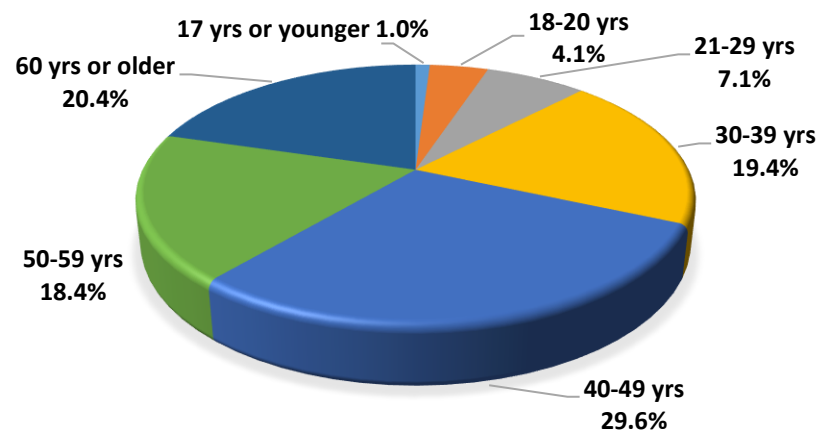
#### Mullewa Community Survey Analysis

The Mullewa Community Survey was conducted by the City of Greater Geraldton to gain a better understanding of how well it is meeting the needs of the Mullewa community and to assist in determining the types and level of services that are most important to the area residents. The survey was conducted between 5-15 September 2016 in which 99 responses were received either in hard copy format or via an online survey platform.

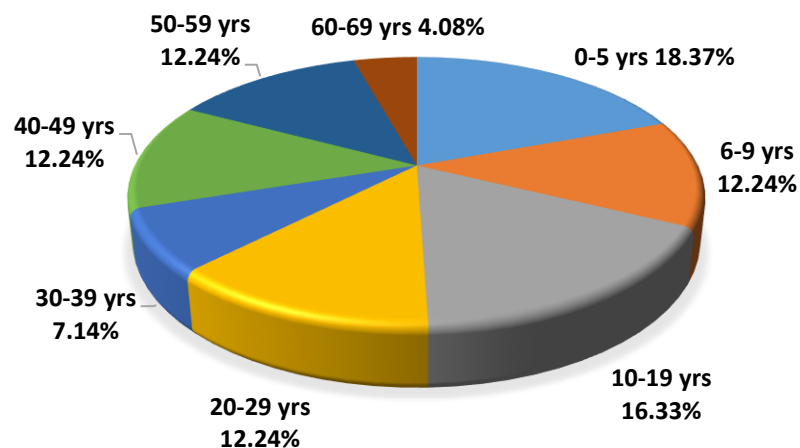
#### Respondent Demographics

Statistical data on survey respondents was collected which included age, gender, cultural heritage and place of residence.

66% survey respondents were female and 34% male and 7% identified as being of Aboriginal heritage. Almost 30% of respondents were aged between 40 and 48 years.

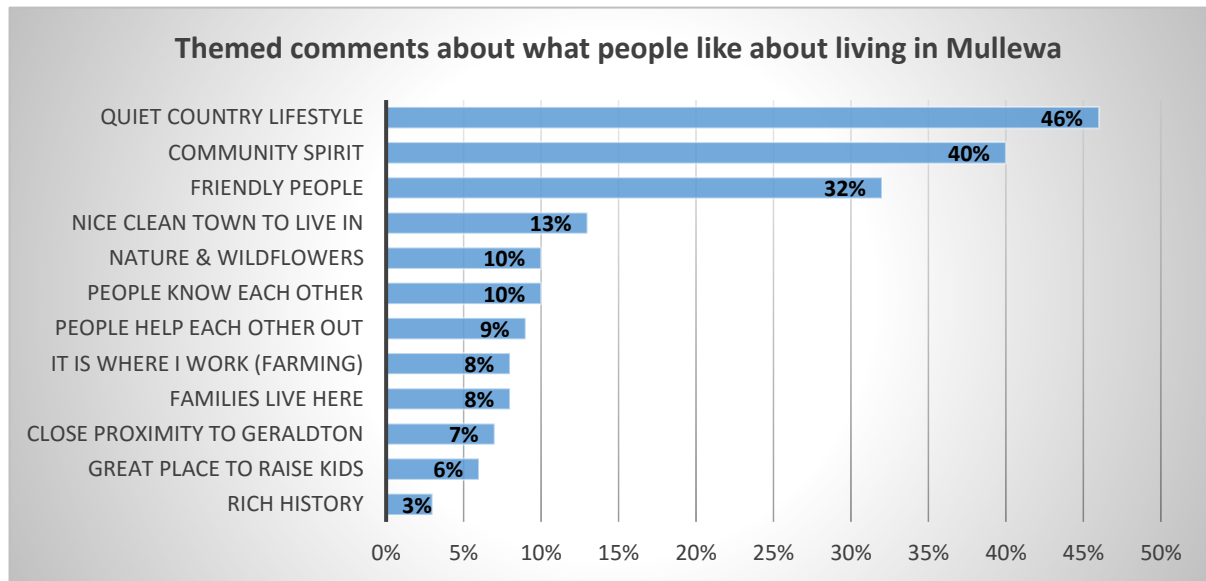


The majority of respondents or 96%, said they were a resident of Mullewa or the surrounding area with 52% living out of town and 48% living in town. The majority of respondents or 90%, considered themselves as long term residents of the area with one respondent stating he had lived in the area for more than 68 years. The average length of time respondents said they have lived in the area was 24 years.



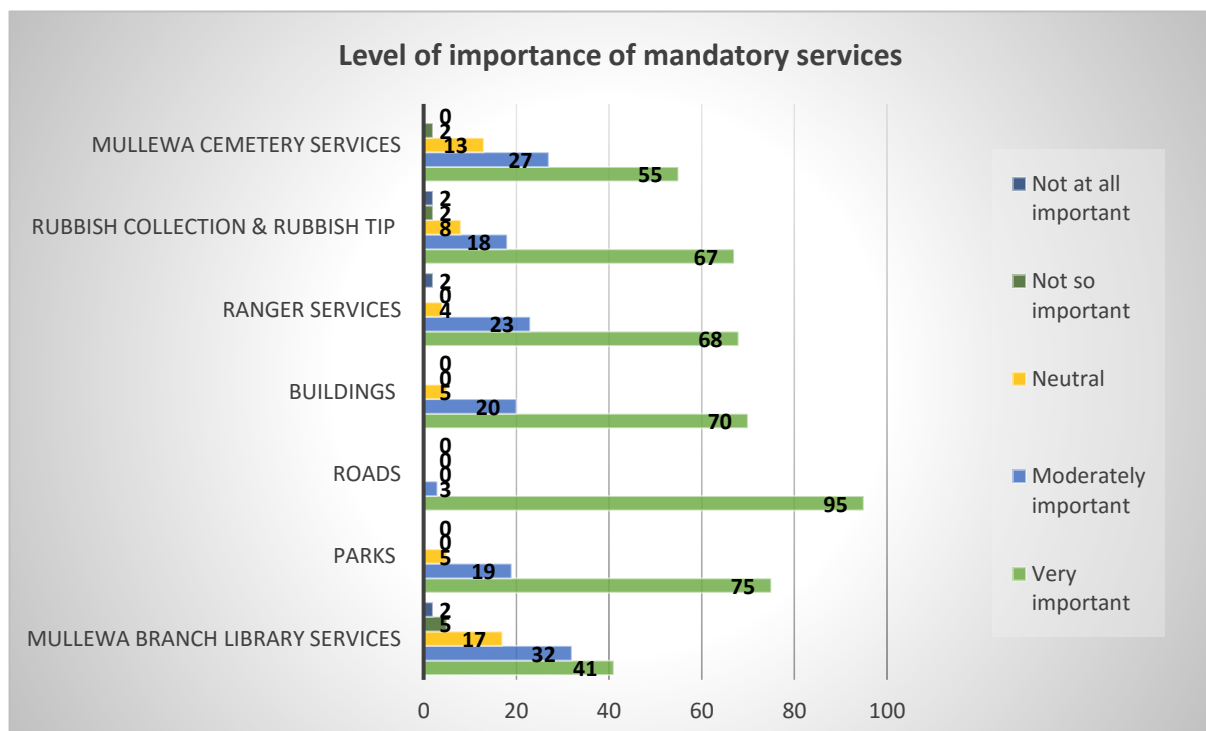
## Living in Mullewa

The Mullewa Community Survey began with a question regarding what people liked most about living in Mullewa or the surrounding rural area. 88 responses were received.



## Service Provision

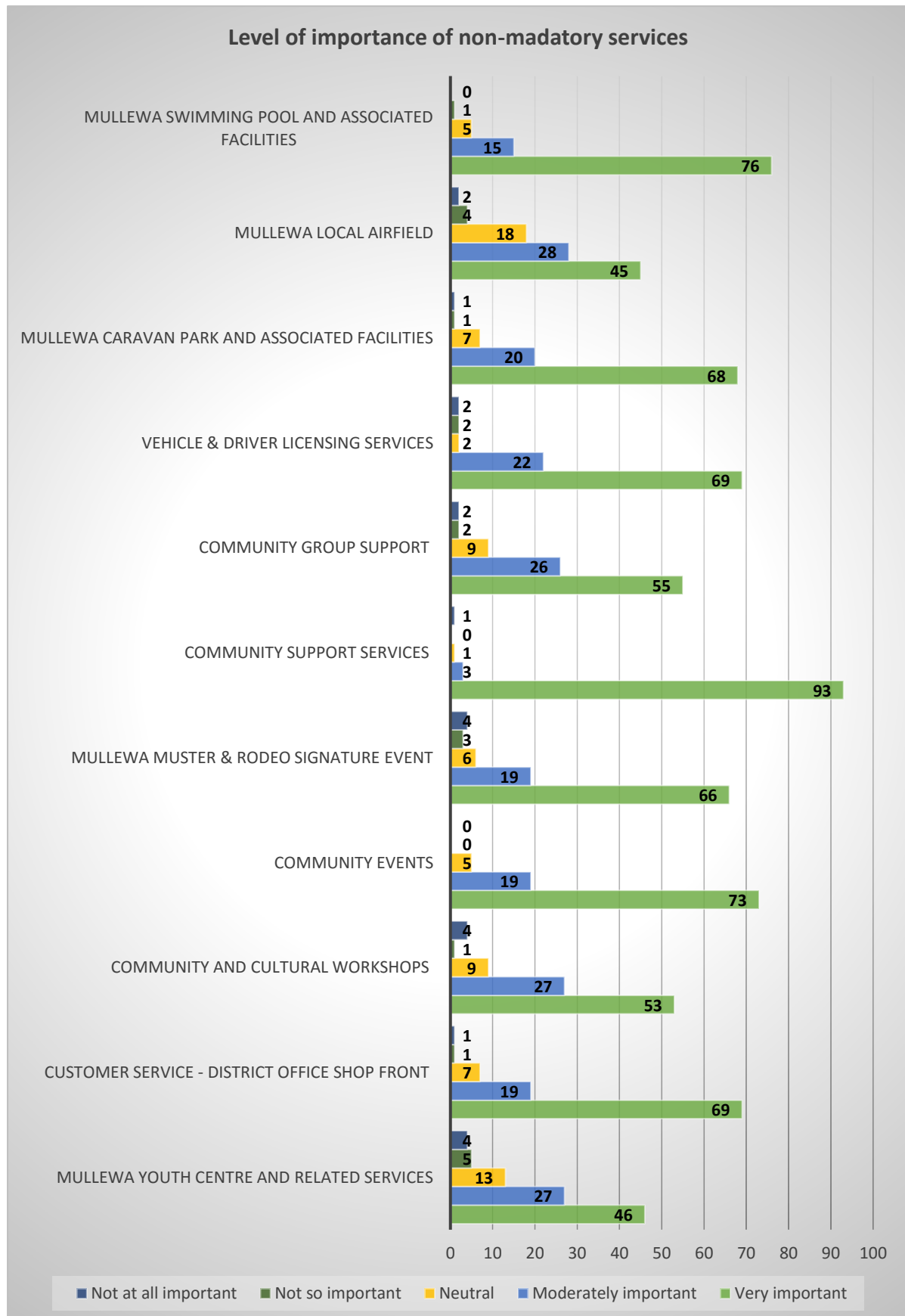
The survey asked a number of questions related to service provision to the Mullewa Community which began with two questions about the importance of mandatory and non-mandatory services. Overall, between 73% and 98% of survey respondents ranked mandatory services as moderately to very important with Roads ranking the highest with 95% of respondents stating it was very important. This was followed by Parks at 75% and Buildings at 70% of respondents ranking these two services as very important.



Overall, between 73% and 96% of survey respondents valued non-mandatory services as moderately to very important with Community Support Services ranking the highest with 93% of respondents

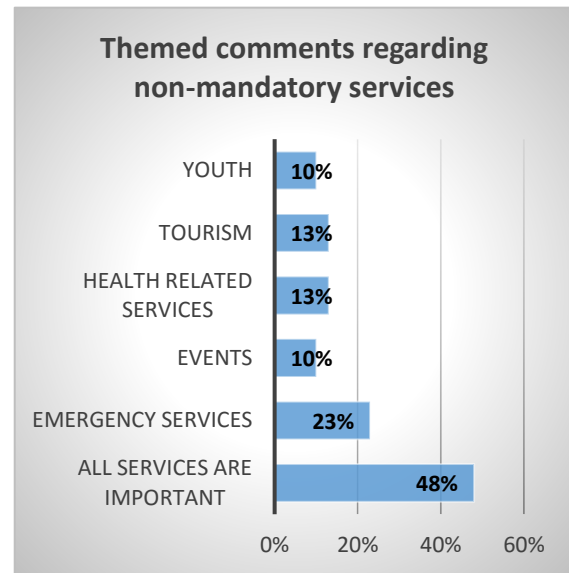
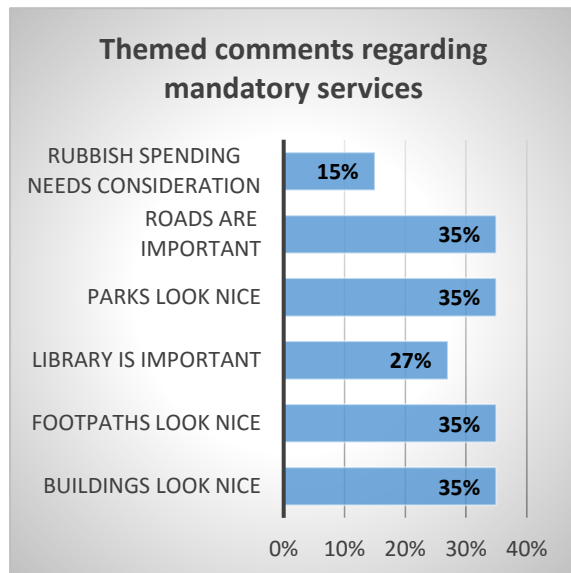


stating the service was very important. This was followed by community events with 73% and Customer Service - District Office Shop Front and Vehicle & Driver Licensing Services with 69% of respondents ranking these two services as very important.



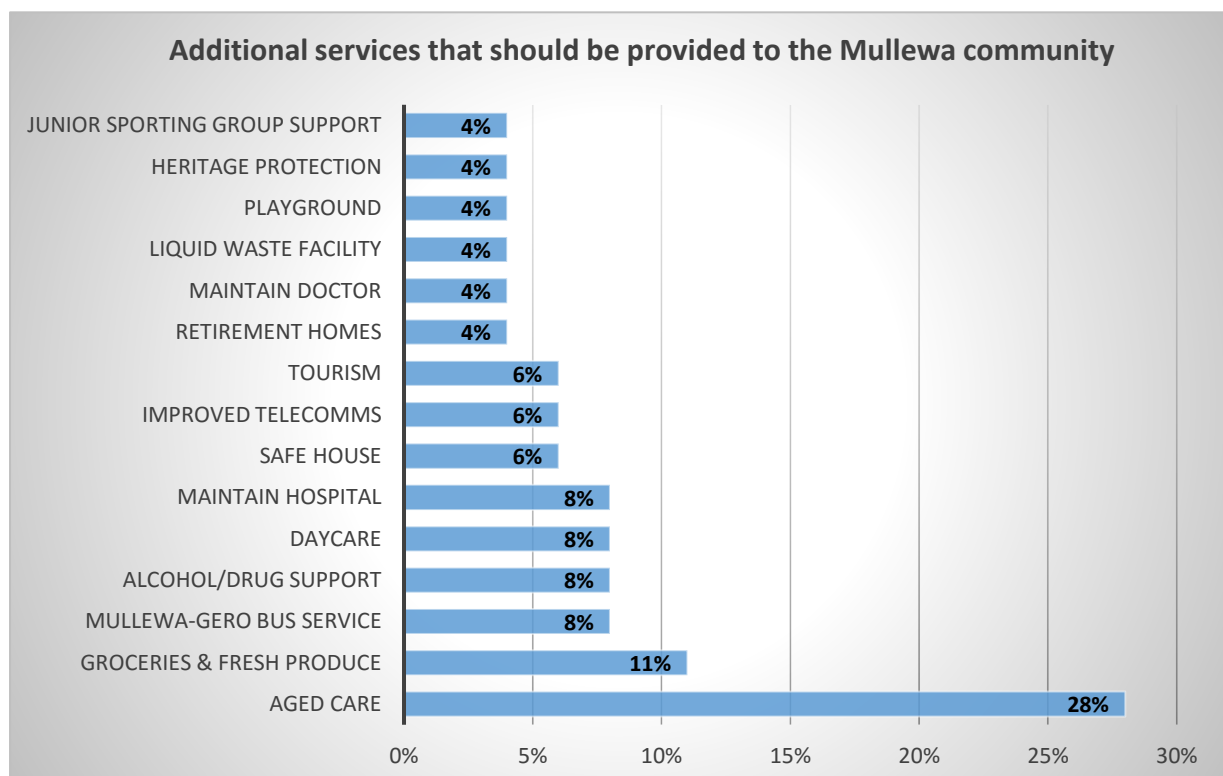
The majority of the 26 comments received regarding mandatory services were positive with the exception of spending on Rubbish Collection and the Tip to be reviewed by the City.

The majority of the 53 comments received regarding non-mandatory services were positive and underpinned the level of importance non-mandatory services have in the community. Respondents also highlighted the importance of emergency services, health related services, tourism, events and youth services.



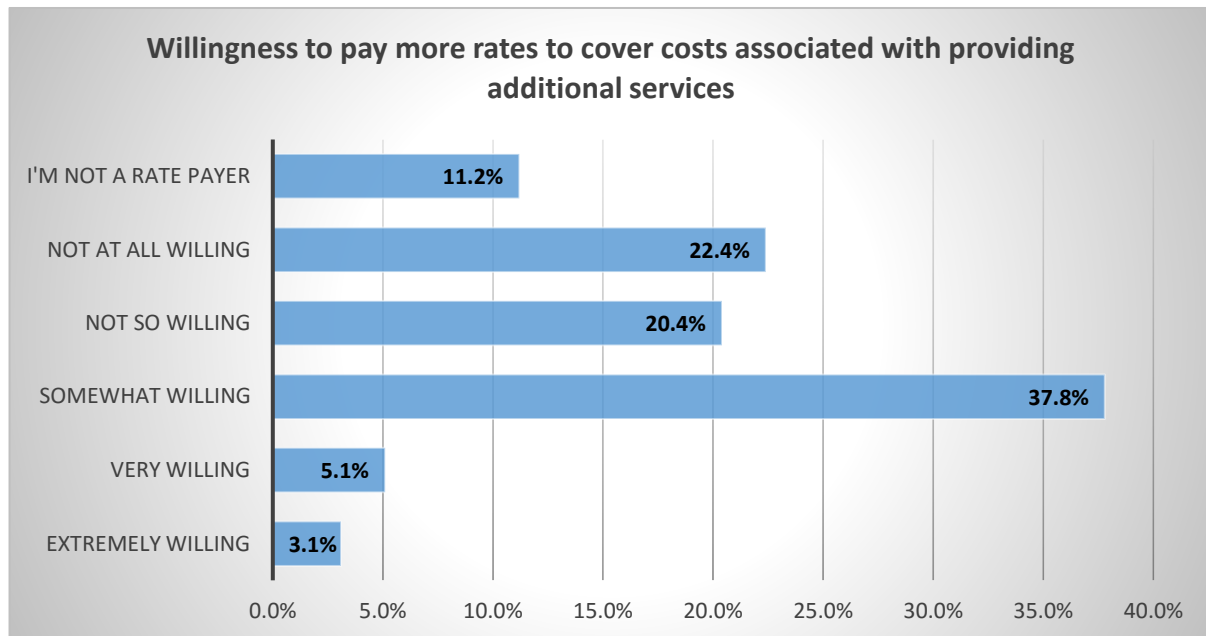
### Additional Service Provision

The survey asked what additional services should be provided to the community which could include services provided by State or Federal Governments, private sector or not for profit groups. Of the 53 responses received, 28% of them mentioned the provision of aged care facilities.



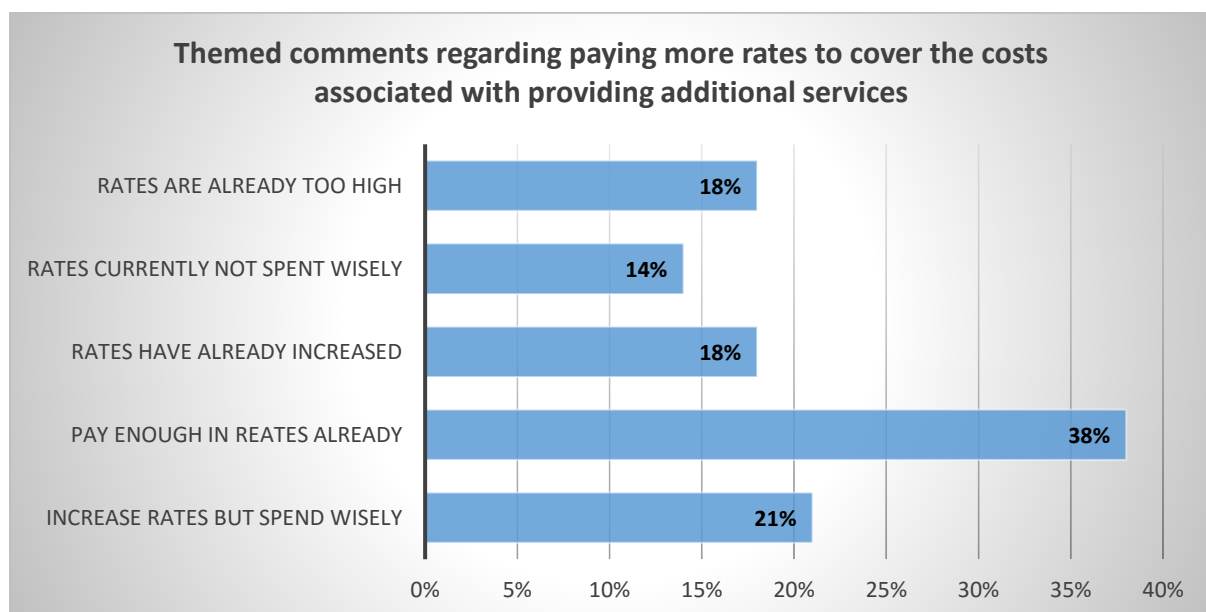
### Covering the Costs of Providing Additional Service Provision

The survey asked how willing respondents would be to pay more rates to cover the costs associated with providing additional services. 46% of respondents said they would be somewhat, very to extremely willing to pay more rates to cover the associated costs with providing additional services, whilst 43% said they would be not so willing to not at all willing to pay more rates.



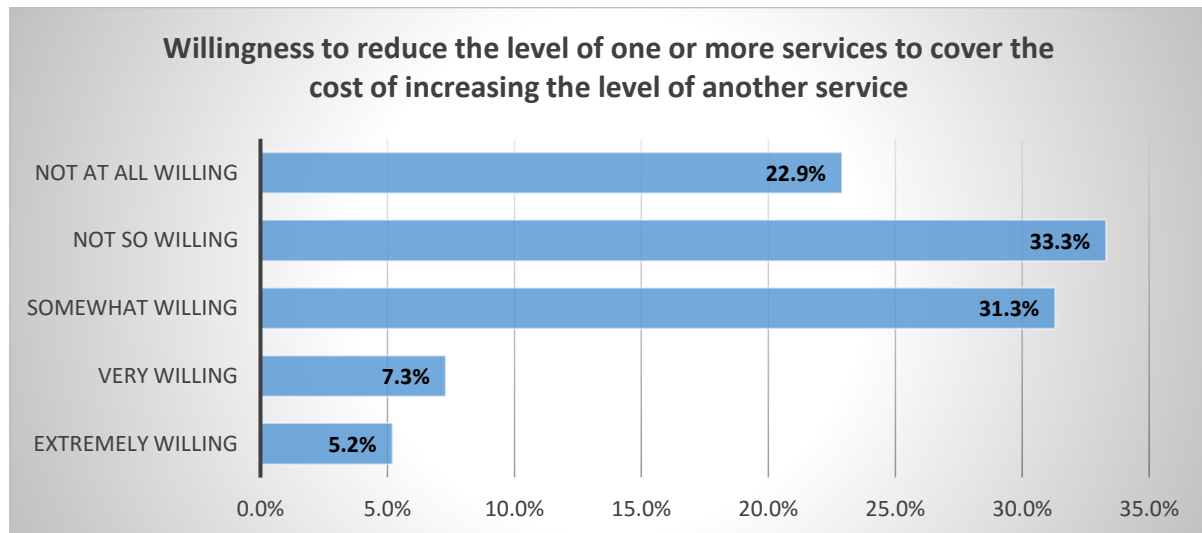
Survey respondents were also given the opportunity to comment on the idea of increasing rates to cover the costs associated with providing additional services.

Of the 29 comments received 38%, said they already paid enough rates whilst 21% said they would be willing to pay an increase in rates as long as the money was spent wisely.



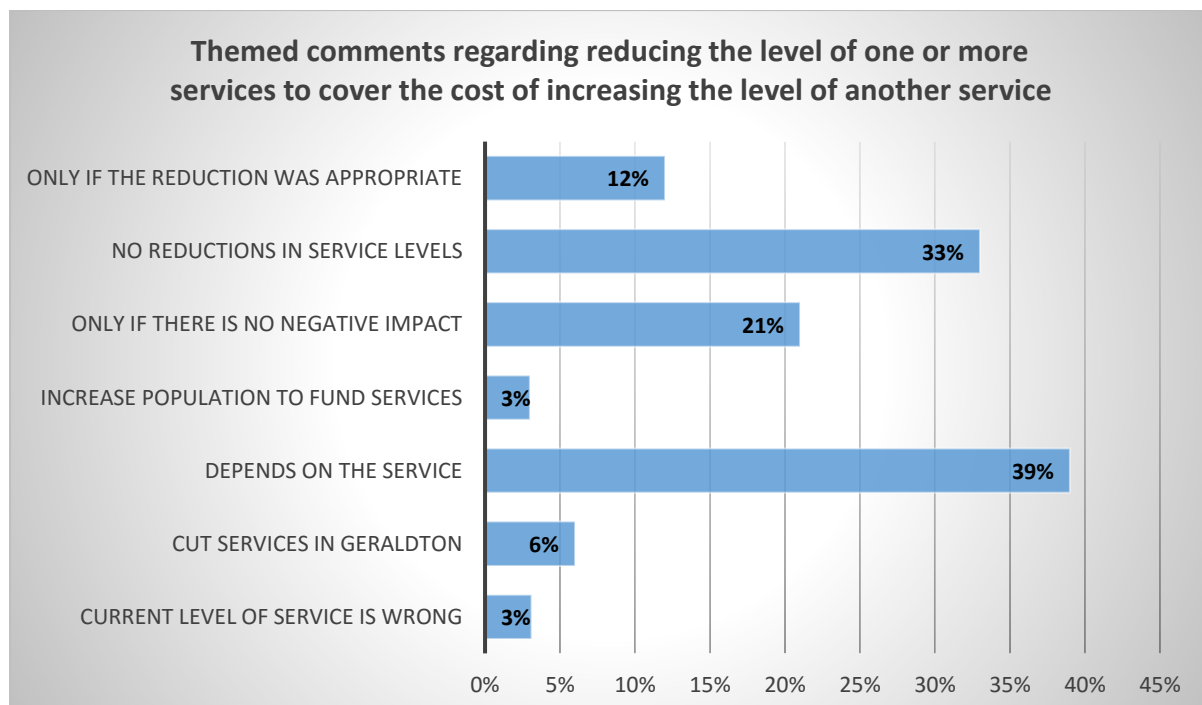
### Reducing Service levels to Fund Additional Services

The survey asked how willing respondents would be to reduce the level of one or more services to cover the cost of increasing the level of another service. The majority of respondents or more than 56%, said they were not so willing to not at all willing to reduce the level of one or more services to cover the cost of increasing the level of another service whilst less than 44% said they would be somewhat, very to extremely willing to reduce the level of one or more services.



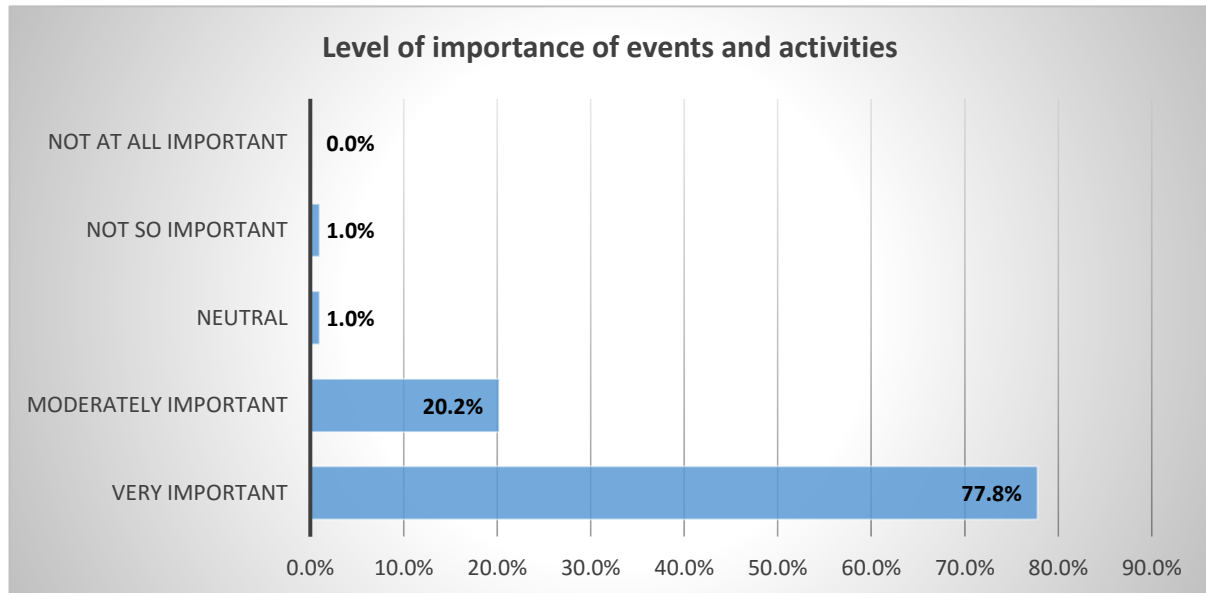
Survey respondents were also given the opportunity to comment on the idea of reducing the level of one or more services to cover the cost of increasing the level of another service.

Of the 33 comments received more than 39% of respondents said it would depend on the service being reduced whilst 33% said there should be no reduction in the level of any services currently being provided. 21% of respondents said they could consider reducing service levels as long as the reduction didn't negatively impact the community.



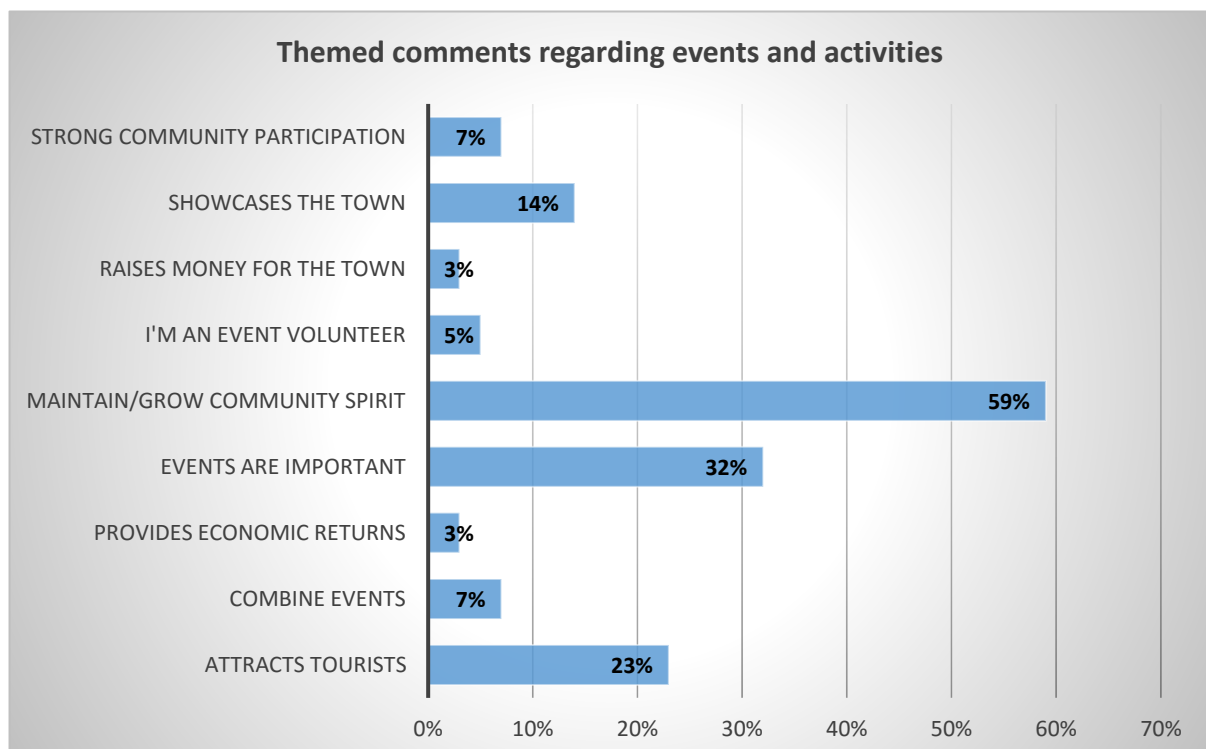
## Provision of Events and Activities

The survey asked two questions related to the provision of, and participation in, events and activities in Mullewa. The first question was about how important events and activities are to the Mullewa community. More than 98% of respondents ranked events and activity provision as moderately to very important.



Survey respondents were also given the opportunity to comment on the importance of events and activities to the Mullewa community.

Of the 44 comments received the majority of respondents or 59%, said events and activities were important to maintaining and/or growing community spirit. 32% reiterated the importance of events whilst 23% of respondents stated events and activities attracted tourists to town.



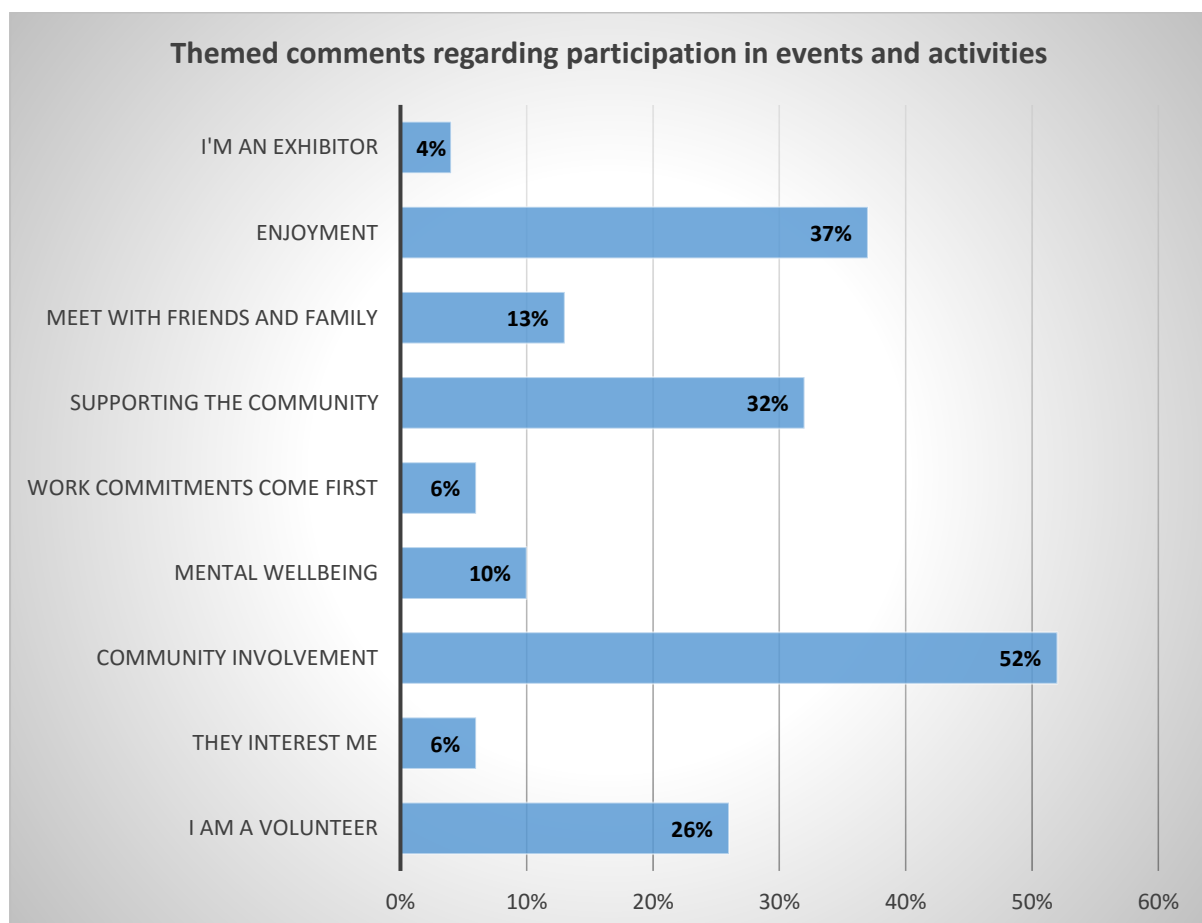
## Participation in Events and Activities

In regard to the level of participation in events and activities 92% said they participated and 8% said they did not.



Survey respondents were also given the opportunity to comment about their participation in Mullewa events and activities.

Of the 54 comments received more than 52% of respondents said they participated in events and activities so they could be involved in the community. 37% of respondents said personal enjoyment was the reason they participated, whilst 32% said they felt their participation was supporting the community. 26% said they volunteered at events and activities, 13% met family and friends at events whilst 10% said their participation was important to their mental wellbeing.

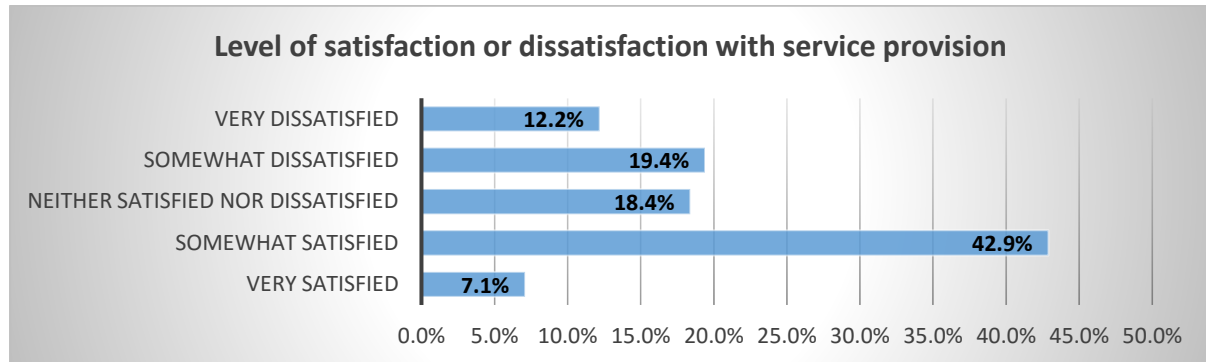




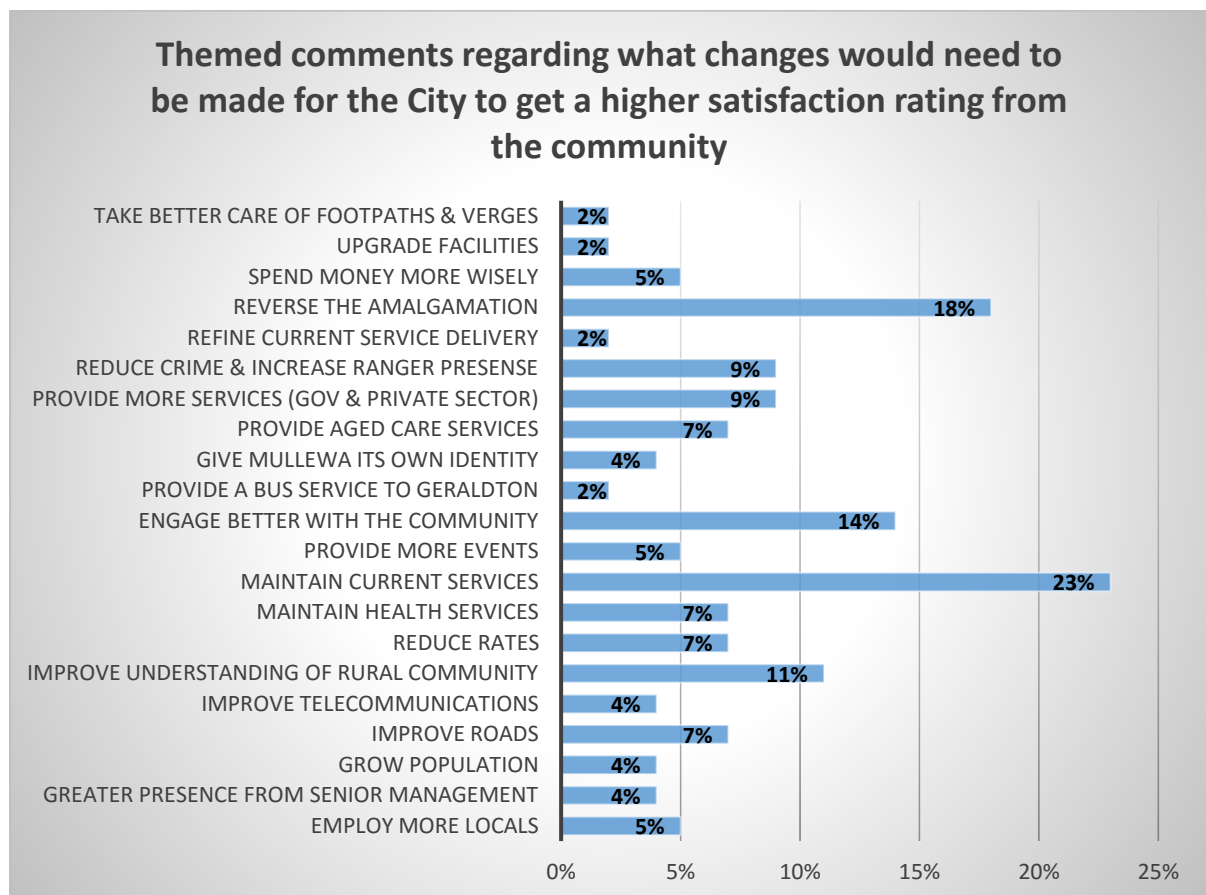
### Satisfaction with Service Provision

The survey gave respondents the opportunity to express their overall satisfaction or dissatisfaction with the services being provided to the Mullewa community.

Half of the respondents or 50%, were somewhat to very satisfied with the services being provided to the community whilst 31% said they were somewhat to very dissatisfied. Just over 18% said they were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied.



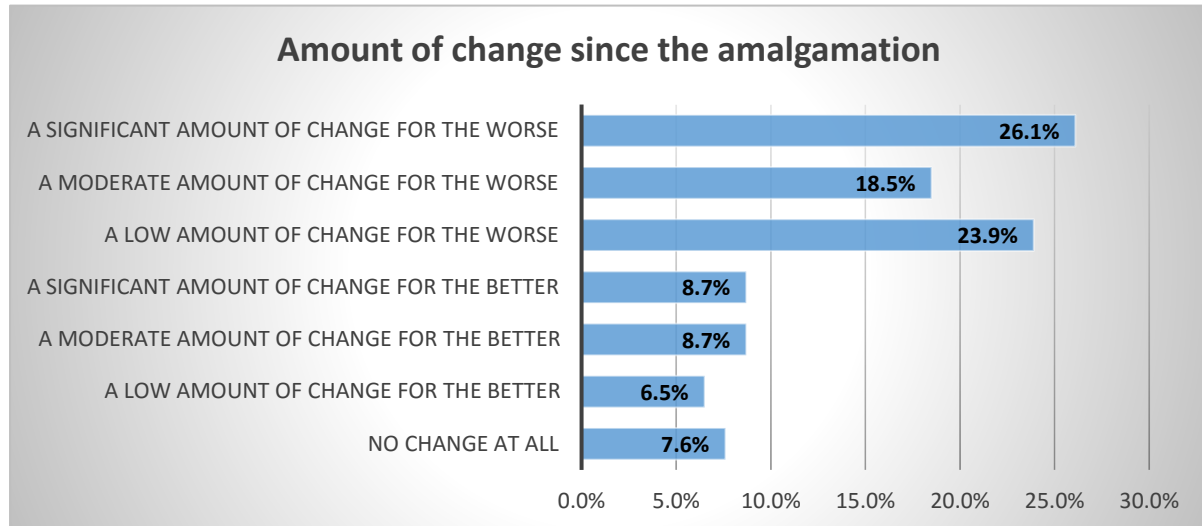
Survey respondents were also given the opportunity to explain what changes would need to be made for the City to get a higher satisfaction rating. Of the 57 comments received the most common theme at 23% was to maintain current services. This was followed by only 18% of respondents wanting to reverse the amalgamation with the City and 11% of respondents stating an improved understanding of Mullewa as a rural community with different needs than the City was required.



## Changes in Mullewa Since the Amalgamation

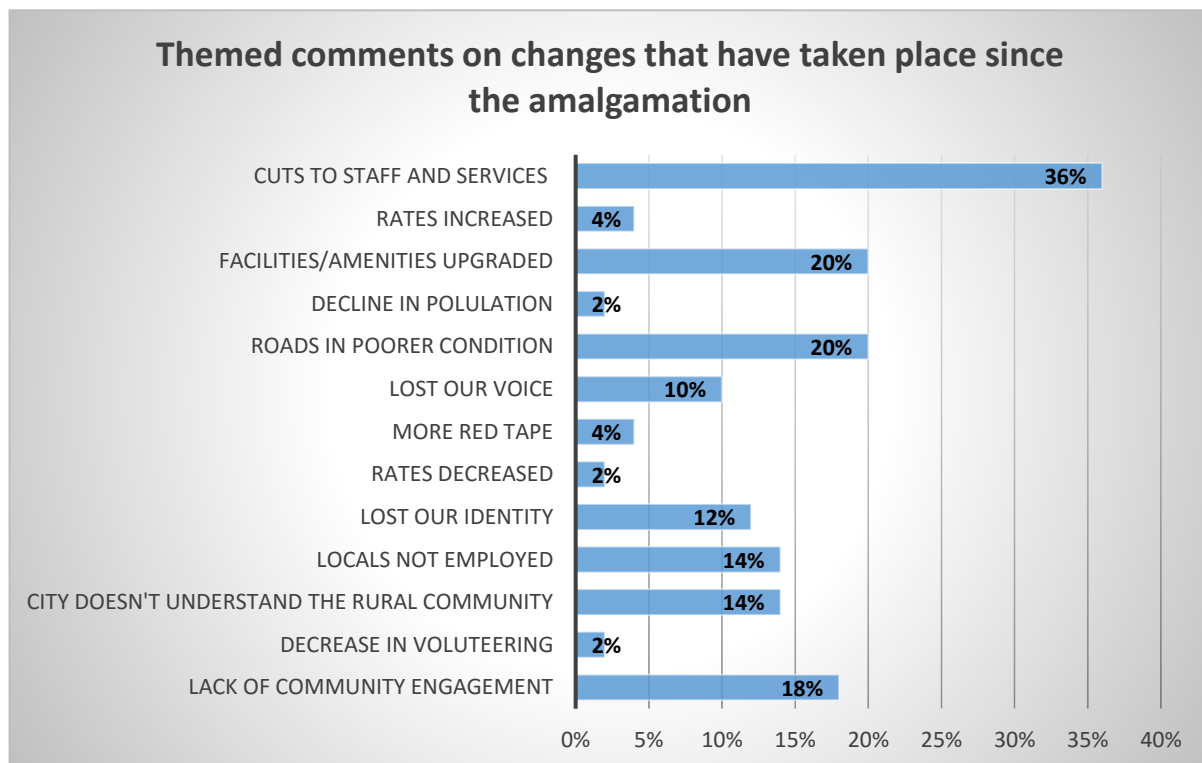
The survey gave respondents the opportunity to state how much they felt the Mullewa community had changed for the better or worse since the amalgamation with the City.

Although 23.9% said Mullewa had changed for the better, 68.5% said it had changed for the worse whilst 7.6% said there had been no change at all.



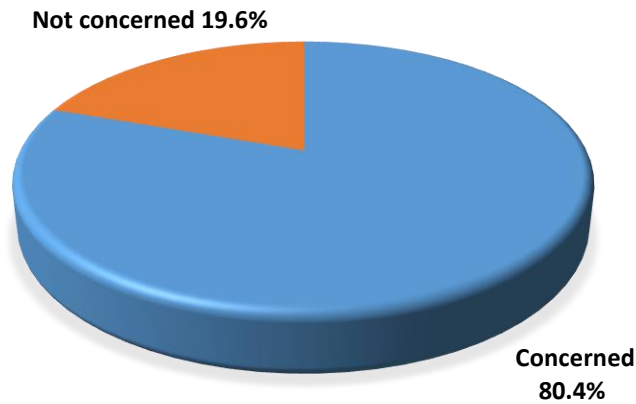
Survey respondents were also given the opportunity to comment on what changes had taken place since the amalgamation.

Of the 50 comments received 36% of respondents said reductions in Council staff and cuts to services provided by other government agencies and the private sector had been made. 20% of respondents were pleased with upgrades made to facilities and amenities whilst 20% thought roads were now in a poorer condition. 18% of respondents said they believed the City needs to engage with residents.



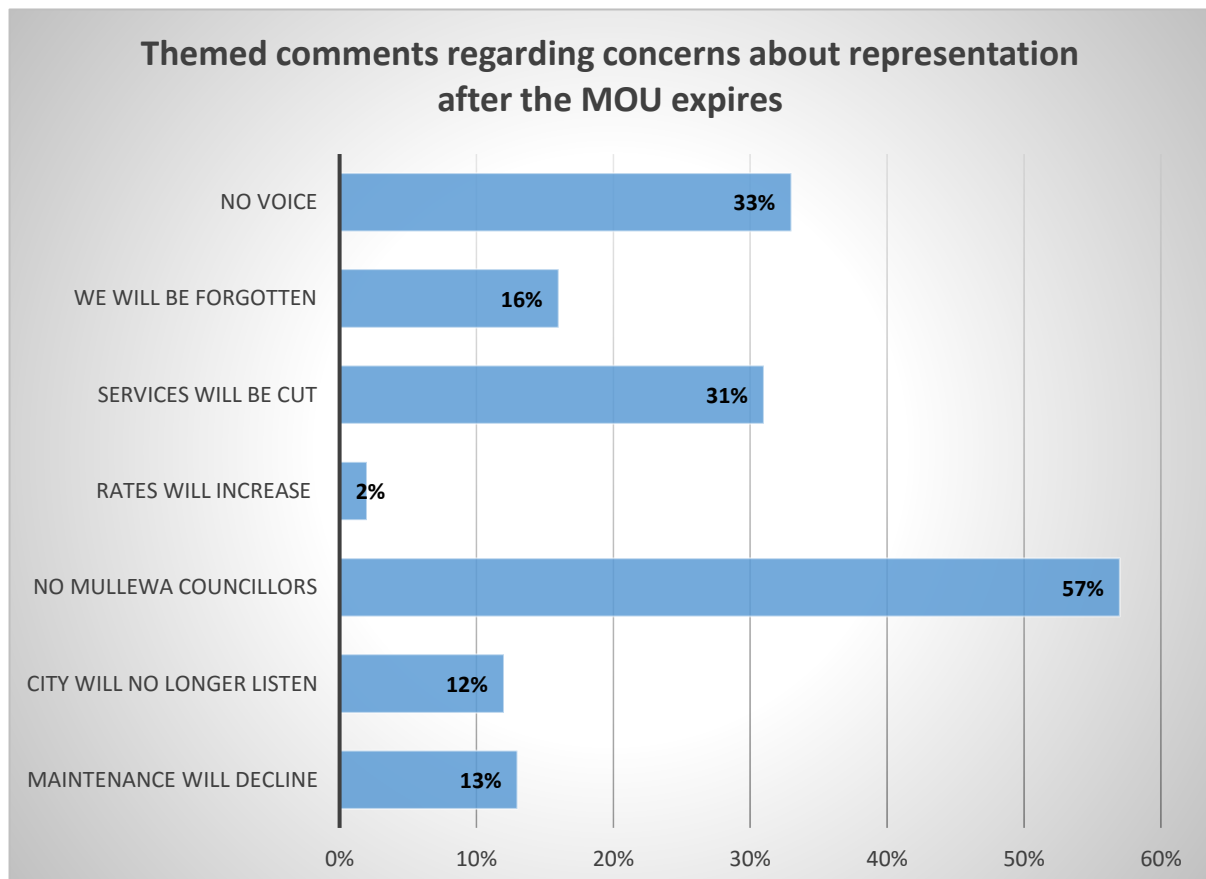
### Concerns About Mullewa Representation Post 2019

The survey asked respondents if they had any concerns about how the Mullewa community would be represented after the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with the City expires in 2019. More than 80% of respondents said they had concerns.



Survey respondents were also given the opportunity to comment on what their concerns were.

Of the 61 comments received the majority of responses or 57%, said they were concerned about having Councillors who didn't live in their community or understand the needs of Mullewa. 33% of respondents felt they would lose their voice on Council whilst 31% are concerned services will be cut. 16% of respondents said the community would be forgotten and it would become a 'ghost town'. Decline in maintenance of roads, footpaths, buildings and facilities was a concern for 13% of respondents whilst 12% said the City would no longer listen to the needs of the community.



## APPENDIX 2 - Workshop Agendas

### Mullewa Services Summit Workshop 1 Agenda Saturday 17 September 2016

8.00-8.30	Final registration and refreshments
8.30-8.35	Welcome and Acknowledgement to Country
8.40-8.45	Overview of Workshop Agenda
8.45-9.00	Presentation – CEO Ken Diehm Amalgamation Outcomes
9.00-9.30	Question & Answer Session
9.30-9.55	World Café question 1: How can we stabilise or grow the population of Mullewa?
9.55-10.15	Plenary discussion
10.15-10.35	World Café Question 2: Are there any other additional services you believe should be provided to the Mullewa community?
10.35-10.45	Presentation of additional services
10.45-10.55	Presentation of Mullewa Community Services Booklet
10.55-11.00	Next steps
	END

### Mullewa Services Summit Workshop 2 Agenda Friday 7 October 2016

4.00-4.30	Final registration and refreshments
4.30-4.40	Welcome
4.40-4.45	Overview of Workshop Agenda
4.45-4.55	Mullewa Community Survey results
4.55-5.40	Deliberating Services & Making Recommendations
5.40-5.50	Prioritising Services
5.50-6.00	Representation Options Post 2019
6.00-6.10	Discussing Options
6.10-6.50	Sharing pros and cons/choosing an option
6.50-7.00	Participant Survey
	Next steps
	END

## APPENDIX 3 – Amalgamation Outcomes Presentation

# History

On 1 July 2011 an \*MOU was signed between the Shire of Mullewa and The City of Geraldton-Greenough. The City of Greater Geraldton is formed.

'Mullewa Ward' elects two Councillors.

A Mullewa District Office Manager position was created to oversee service delivery.

\*MOU – Memorandum of Understanding



# Amalgamation Changes

- Council representation  
Before 4 Wards with 8 Councillors  
Now 1 Ward with 2 Councillors

- Rates

2010/11 minimum GRV and UV rates in the dollar were:

GRV MULLEWA T/S	10.3309	MINIMUM	\$321.06
GRV MULLEWA PINDAR T/S	13.3045	MINIMUM	\$83.49
UV AGRICULTURE	.8629	MINIMUM	\$238.50
UV MINING	21.8400	MINIMUM	\$286.65

2016/17 minimum GRV and UV rates in the dollar: \$1010.00

UV Rate reduction 19.3%

- Operations

Before a CEO

Now Manager Mullewa Community Development

Reduction in staff - 3 less office employees

## Amalgamation Outcomes

- Youth Centre refurbishment (Mullewa Top Priority-10 Year Cap. Works Plan)
- Mullewa Pool upgrades\*
- Recreation Centre upgrades\*
- Town Hall upgrades\*
- Caravan Park upgrades
- Drive Trails development\*
- Mullewa Rodeo & Muster Signature Event
- CCTV installation
- IT modernisation in Council owned buildings
- Greater Ranger presence
- Access to broader range of Council services and resources
- Cultural projects (e.g. Yamaji Yanda-Aboriginal Photos Archive)
- Greater leverage \$\$\$ to attract grant funding (e.g. MWDC funding for ArtDrive and Lotterywest funding for Youth Centre refurbishment)
- Budget no longer restricted to Shire revenue

\* Projects/works started before the amalgamation

## Income/Expenditure

### Income

- Rates revenue
  - 577 rateable properties in Mullewa Ward
  - Minimum GRV and UV Rated Assessment = \$1010.00
- Government Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs)  
Pro rata \$975,920

### Expenditure

- Asset maintenance & renewal
- Asset depreciation
- Capital Works
- Staff wages (superannuation, annual leave, training, etc...)
- Governance (indirect cost directors and managers)
- Administration (IT services, HR, finance, office equipment & supplies, uniforms, pool vehicles, plant, etc...)



	2015/16	2014/15	2013/14	2012/13	2011/12	2010/11
<b>Rates Revenue</b> (577 assessments)	<b>1,385,744</b>	<b>1,411,874</b>	<b>1,455,210</b>	<b>1,661,932</b>	<b>1,645,148</b>	<b>1,595,665</b>
<b>Parks</b> Operating Capital	437,000	268,706 2,110	252,187 34,289	224,943 24,237	215,347 18,240	164,531 0
<b>Roads</b> Operating Capital	1,877,000	<b>958,059</b> 1,755,513	597,579 1,437,213	524,294 <b>1,710,711</b>	407,450 1,458,524	525,579 1,011,303
<b>Mullewa Pool</b> Operating Capital	133,000 0	139,133 14,805	197,030 27,204	143,841 37,060	129,688 <b>235,711</b>	142,486 <b>771,531</b>
<b>Buildings</b> Operating Capital	413,000	290,704 81,892	268,905 126,591	166,255 <b>239,507</b>	177,584 29,036	209,186 <b>178,580</b>
<b>Youth</b> Direct Expenditure	223,000	222,283	190,928	199,602	180,285	132,313
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>3,083,00</b>	<b>3,733,205</b>	<b>3,131,927</b>	<b>3,270,450</b>	<b>2,851,863</b>	<b>3,135,509</b>

Increased cost to repair flood damaged roads

Increased expenditure on back of \$268,000 R4R funding Drive Trails (Royalties for Regions)

Mullewa Pool upgrades supported by external grants R4R & DSR (Dept. of Sport & Recreation)

Upgrades to Recreation Centre and Town Hall supported by R4R

Excludes 'one off' grant for \$3,722,134 to repair flood damaged roads

**\*Excludes costs to provide other 13 Mullewa services**

## Income/Expenditure Comparison

INCOME	Pre-Amalgamation 2010/11	2015/16
Rates Revenue	\$1,595,654	\$1,385,744
Pro rata Government Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs)	\$848,174	\$975,920
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,443,828</b>	<b>\$2,361,664</b>
EXPENDITURE		
Maintenance, renewal, Capital Works, staff wages, Councillors, governance & administration, etc...	\$2,238,223	\$4,325,000
Asset depreciation	\$1,373,150	\$1,497,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,611,373</b>	<b>\$5,822,000</b>

## Projected benefits over next 10 years

- Targeted road maintenance for rural haulage routes
- Continued investment in capital works
- Continued asset renewal
- Continued events support
- Continued community development service delivery
- Lower UV Rates than before amalgamation



## 2016/17 Planned Projects/Renewal

Mullewa transfer station	\$613,500
Crime prevention	\$54,000
Bush Fire Storage tanks	\$80,000
Recreation Centre upgrades	\$65,000
Town Hall upgrades	\$32,000
Swimming Pool upgrades	\$5,000
Lions Park upgrades	\$12,500
Airfield perimeter fencing	\$15,000
Caravan Park upgrades	\$15,000
CBH Dam fence renewal	\$41,000
Town rubbish bins (7) renewal	\$15,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$948,000</b>

## The Bottom Line for 2016/17 Financial Year

Mullewa Rates Revenue	\$1,478,334
Financial Assistance - General	\$318,000
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$1,796,334</b>
Mullewa Operating & Capital Costs	\$4,248,000
Asset depreciation	\$1,497,000
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>\$5,745,000</b>
<b>Loss on Operations</b>	<b>\$3,948,666</b>

## Challenges to Overcome

- Council currently operating at a net operating loss of \$5.4 million/year - surplus by 2020.
- Reductions in State and Federal Government funding
- Escalating costs, particularly utilities
- Large backlog of essential infrastructure renewal
- Reductions in rates increases
- 20% reduction in staff numbers – reduced range and level of services (3 Mullewa staff members)
- More efficient service delivery
- Declining population due to technological advances in the agricultural industry
- Balancing community needs and aspirations with the ability to pay for them

\*All WA Councils/Shires have similar pressures, especially around reductions in Government grant funding.

## APPENDIX 4 - Responses to Participant Questions

### 1. Why did we amalgamate with Geraldton?

The amalgamation was undertaken on a voluntary basis, by agreement following formal resolution of the then Mullewa Shire Council. The elected Mullewa Council at that time made the decision. The then Council of Geraldton-Greenough agreed to the confirmed request for voluntary amalgamation sought by the Shire of Mullewa, following withdrawal by Chapman Valley from a proposed voluntary amalgamation process that had envisaged inclusion of CGG, Shire of Mullewa and Shire of Chapman Valley.

While not the only reason, a key element in the decision of the then Mullewa Shire Council was the question of longer term financial sustainability of the Shire. The realities for the then Mullewa Council included:

- a small and declining population,
- a relatively small number of rateable properties,
- heavy dependence on grant funding to just maintain the basic service of key assets such as rural roads, and
- like many Councils across WA - a growing backlog of renewal of infrastructure at or near the end of useful life, and not likely to be affordable from the rates, grants and other ordinary revenues of the small Shire district.

The benefits were seen to include access to a larger allocation of overall grant funds and greater capacity for access to borrowings, economies of scale, availability of staff across a wider range of professional and technical knowledge and skills, and access to a wider range and better level of some services, not possible within the very small budget of the then Shire.

### 2. How much revenue gets put back into Mullewa?

In 2015-16 the City collected \$1.3857 million in Rates from the Mullewa ward and spent \$3.083 million.

### 3. Does the CGG have any strategy to increase the population of Mullewa?

The declining resident population in the township and wider district of Mullewa reflects the same pattern of gradual population decline experienced since the 1970s across the Great Southern, Central and Northern Wheatbelt and Mid West rural regions. That change has been characterised by consolidation of farms into fewer, larger holdings with increasingly sophisticated industrial-scale mechanisation of farming processes. Fewer families on the land, producing lower demand for both government (schools, hospitals etc.) and commercial services in the townships, with declining retail and trade services, and fewer people living in the townships. That process has been exacerbated by declining rural employment opportunities, and a drift of young people to Perth, or to coastal regional cities where (for example) they may have joined the FIFO workforce for Pilbara mines.

Mullewa's problem is not unique - Mullewa faces the same declining population challenges as many other townships across the State. Most residents of rural regional areas of Western Australia have witnessed and understand this change since the 1970s.

Increasing the population of Mullewa sufficient to stop the population decline and revive the township economy will require the creation of an ongoing stream of new employment opportunities that are sustainable for working age people. The challenge is identifying the sectors of the economy that could successfully locate and thrive in Mullewa. Some opportunities may flow from leveraging existing strong sectors of the local economy.

The *Mid West Regional Blueprint* by the Mid West Development Commission, and the *Open for Business* strategy of the State Government, for Agribusiness development, have both identified a range of areas for further exploration.

The City is currently framing a *Growth Plan* that will be published later in 2016, and its considerations will include potential for economic development of the City's rural sector, including Mullewa.

### 4. Residential properties don't have commercial gain like farmers do so why have rates for farmers decreased?

Rates on UV-valued farming properties in the previous Mullewa district were reduced on a staged basis over the past four to five years as part of the process mandated under Governor's orders for the amalgamation, requiring alignment of rates across the two previous local government districts. At the time of amalgamation, Mullewa UV rates were higher than those of Geraldton-Greenough. Note that valuation of rural UV properties is undertaken by the State Valuer-General (via Landgate) every year.

#### **5. Why have my rates tripled?**

Because of the relatively low average GRV valuations on residential properties in the Mullewa township, and at Pindar, a majority of properties only make Minimum Rates. In 2010-11 the Mullewa minimum payment was about \$321. In 2016-17 the CGG Minimum Payment is \$1010.

#### **6. The CEO said at first that Ward rates aren't allocated to that particular Ward, but then said if we want to contribute more money the City can improve services in Mullewa?**

The Local Government Act prohibits the preparation of Budgets on a Ward basis. That is why rates collected in a particular ward are never 'reserved' to be applied only within a particular ward. The Act requires that the Budget must be for the whole of the local government district. Other provisions in the Act strictly control and limit the way that Differential General Rates and Minimum Payments may be applied. However, if there is a strong demand from the Mullewa community to improve service delivery the costs associated with making the desired improvements would need to be funded by an increase in rates of all City of Greater Geraldton rate payers, which is determined by Council.

#### **7. If Geraldton rate payers are subsidising Mullewa services, what is the City planning to reduce to compensate?**

The City is not planning to "reduce" Mullewa services, and any future change in services delivery will reflect what Council may determine to change in relation to the range, scope or service level for whole-of-City services. Council focus in the past two annual Budgets has been on the basics – the mandatory services that all local governments must provide, and endeavouring to keep annual rates increases at levels the broader community can afford and is prepared to pay.

An important part of that focus has been higher priority on renewing essential infrastructure such as roads and replacing worn out infrastructure. A key issue has been overcoming the backlog in asset renewal expenditure that had accumulated over many years under previous Councils.

This ought not to be seen as criticism of past Councils. They made decisions based on the traditional budget and financial management conventions that applied in local government for many years in the past. In more recent times, Federal and State Governments across Australia became aware that the traditional approaches of the old days were simply not enabling Councils to raise sufficient funds to renew their assets – like roads - as they wore out. Basically, communities were not paying for the assets they were consuming. In response, new approaches to local government finance and accounting have been imposed via legislation on local governments, requiring focus on raising rates to meet the costs of renewing assets.

With new priorities, Council has wound back resource allocations and funding for many "discretionary" services – the things a Council can provide, if it has the financial capacity, but is not mandated to provide by statute or by broader requirements for public health and safety. A significant range of such discretionary services have been wound back, and in some cases discontinued entirely, in the past two annual Budgets – reflected in reduction by about 20% of total Council staff numbers. This has enabled more funds to be directed to renewing worn out assets.

The Mullewa ward is not immune from these whole-of-City imperatives, and it is the case that the new City inherited an essential infrastructure renewal backlog associated with the previous Mullewa Shire district, just as it did from Geraldton and Greenough. Had the Mullewa Council remained in place (instead of amalgamating with CGG), that Council would have been confronted with the same fundamental problem to solve – funding the renewal of assets. The City will continue to pursue strategies to deliver better economy and efficiency in the delivery of Mullewa services – to cut the costs of the services it does provide, to stretch scarce dollars further.

#### **8. Why is the expenditure in Mullewa less this year than in the last three years when we spent more on major services?**

Expenditure may vary year to year, depending on levels of Capital expenditure, as opposed to operational expenditure on regular services. See the revenue and expenditure figures provided in the CEOs presentation.

**9. What is the plan for representation of the Mullewa community post MOU expiration?**

The Council has not adopted any particular view on this matter at this stage. Under the Local Government Act, a review of all City Ward boundaries (not just the Mullewa Ward) is required, and must be initiated, during 2016-17. As part of that process, community consultation is required and will be undertaken. It is likely that a range of options will be identified and explored. The City will take formal advice from the Department of Local Government and Communities throughout the required wards review process. Information will be made available to the City community when this formal process is initiated.

**10. After the MOU expires can the Councillor for Mullewa have rural experience?**

The response to the previous question (9) above is relevant.

In the democratic process, it is the voters that ultimately determine the skills and experience of the person they prefer to vote for. The credential and claims of all people who run in an election are published. If the majority of voters who actually turn out on election day want a lawyer or engineer or school teacher or a farmer – that’s who they will vote for. It might be noted that candidates currently do not need to live in the ward they run for at an election. As well, future options to be considered could include a system *without* wards, as is applied in quite a few Council across Australia. These and other options will be canvassed by the community and by Council, via the mandatory formal wards review process.

**11. Can we have a dedicated rural Ward which includes all farmers and primary producers?**

The response to the previous question (9) above is relevant.

The idea of a ‘rural ward’ could be one amongst a range of options that could be considered, as part of the required Wards review process. All options will be subject to a community engagement/consultation process.

**12. Spending on youth has increased. Does this include the building renovations? What additional services are we getting for the extra \$100,000?**

The additional spending is mainly related to additional staff employment expenses. The youth centre employees a youth development officer who staffs the youth centre plus a casual. There needs to be two people staffing the youth centre for security and safety reasons. The other additional costs relate to maintenance on the building which is required by CGG regulations. Please note approximately \$100,000 of the youth centre expenses is offset by a grant from Dept. Child Protection Family Support.

**13. Why isn’t our youth centre run similar to Moora where if there is no school attendance youth can’t go to the centre or play sport?**

This is an idea that has been worked on by CGG and Mullewa District High School, when Mullewa District High School had funding for a truancy officer this type of model was in place. Please note however due to our funding agreement the drop-in-centre must be open to all 12-18 year olds, and by banning truants we would be banning some of the most at need young people in the community.

**14. What is included in the parks costs?**

Parks costs involve the maintenance of public open spaces which includes weed and pest control; planting and care of trees shrubs and gardens including new landscaping; watering; care and mowing of grass and turf; managing native bushland; ground inspections; BBQ and park furniture maintenance; playground equipment maintenance; sporting ground facility maintenance including the pool; irrigation maintenance and upgrades; stormwater pump maintenance; graffiti removal; litter and bin collection; road reserve litter collection; fences, rails, racks guards and barrier maintenance; and emergency callouts.

**15. Why have the parks costs doubled with less staff and same amount of gardens and don’t appear to be any different?**

The level of staffing has not decreased however the amount of maintenance to sporting ground facilities; bushland and road reserves; irrigation upgrades and graffiti removal has increased. The



number of assets that have reached the end of their life and require replacement has also increased considerably.

**16. Can the Lover’s Lane and Wildflower pathways be upgraded to include seating?**

The City will review this year’s Parks budget to see if the purchase and installation of park benches for Lover’s Lane and the Wildflower paths could be included. If not, it will be included for consideration in next year’s budget.

**17. What is going to be done about water runoff entering the house on the corner of Mitchell Street and Railway Road?**

The City is currently investigating this raised concern and requests the person who submitted this question contact the District Office with more information.

**18. Can the new reflective poles on rural roads be removed?**

Reflective poles on roads are an important road safety feature that roads standards require. They are mandatory. The main function of guide posts is to assist night time driving.

**19. Can the road to Morawa be improved?**

The Mullewa-Wubin Road between Mullewa and Morawa is owned by Main Roads WA not the City. Therefore, this matter doesn’t fall within local government jurisdiction. However, the City plays a strong advocacy role. The City has written to the Minister raising this matter.

**20. Can the Mullewa-Carnarvon Road be improved as it has potholes?**

This financial year the City has budgeted approximately \$100,000 to resheet 4kms of gravel on the Mullewa-Carnarvon Road with 100mm of gravel. The City is also working with Mount Gibson Mine to complete maintenance repairs on this road.

**21. When will Jose Street be fixed?**

The Jose Street construction project should have been better managed. Restructuring has since occurred to prevent re-occurrence. The centre road island width was widened to slow vehicles and protect the trees. Officers are monitoring the road.

**22. When will potholes in the bitumen at rural road junctions be addressed?**

This financial year the City has budgeted to renew the bitumen at six road junctions or intersections. It is hoped to complete to complete a similar number next year.

**23. What is the tank in Lion’s park for?**

The installation of a new water tank for Lions Park is to reduce use of scheme water used for park irrigation.

**24. The road to Geraldton has deteriorated, can it be improved?**

The highway between Mullewa and Geraldton is owned by Main Roads WA not the City. Therefore, this matter doesn’t fall within local government jurisdiction. However, the City plays a strong advocacy role in this field in its regular interaction with Main Roads here in Geraldton.

**25. Why are Geraldton based workers employed to work in Mullewa on a drive in-drive out basis?**

The City recruit’s personnel, and retains contractors when necessary, based on skills and capacity to undertake specific work. As and when job vacancies occur in the Mullewa-based personnel establishment, they are publicly advertised and Mullewa locals are able to apply, with selection based on merit. The best candidate is appointed. Where no suitably qualified/skilled candidate applies from Mullewa, then a job may be given to a person who lives elsewhere. The City cannot direct where an employee is to live. Some jobs do not require full-time presence in Mullewa, and can be undertaken by Geraldton-based officers.

**26. When will derelict housing be removed?**

The City is currently investigating 14 complaints in accordance with the Health Act in regard to alleged uninhabitable properties. The Health Act 1911 has provisions relating to the Local Government having the powers to deem a property unfit for habitation. The City’s Environmental Health Department will action an investigation into a potentially unfit for habitation property once a complaint is lodged with the City from a person the house is effecting. An Environmental Health Officer would then attend the property to assess the following criteria: availability of potable water, availability of power, working plumbing, buildings structural integrity and if the property is injurious or dangerous to health. On the occasion that a property is deemed unfit for habitation as per the Health Act the authorised officer

has the power to place a notice on the property owner outlining the actions with timeframes to take place for the property to comply. If this notice is not complied with as per the timeframes stated, then section 140(1) of the Health Act may allow under extreme circumstances the Local Government to carry out the condition of the notice to recover the cost from the owner.

**27. Are there any plans in place to look after neglected heritage buildings?**

The majority of the heritage buildings in Mullewa are not owned by Council and therefore not under the care and control of the City such as the Railway Precinct and outlying halls. The City has recently refurbished the Masonic Hall and funds have been budgeted to conduct essential works on the Town Hall next year. The City will be contacting the PTA (Public Transport Authority) in regard to the condition of the railway buildings in Mullewa.

**28. When will we be able to use our local liquid waste salvage company again?**

At an Inspection carried out by Department of Environment and Regulation (DER) in 2013 it was identified that the liquid waste pond was not registered and non-compliant with the regulations. DER has instructed the City to cease using the liquid waste pond and for all liquid waste to be sent to a DER approved liquid waste disposal facility. In order to dump liquid waste, the DER will need to firstly assess the new Mullewa Transfer Station facility and provide a license for this activity. The City will then need to apply to design and build a liquid waste pond as per DER requirements before a license can be issued for the facility to accept liquid waste. It would be at the discretion of the liquid waste company as to who and where the company services.

**29. Can the problem of off road motorbikes being drive on the wildflower pathway and in town be addressed in general?**

Yes. Any off road illegal activity can be reported to Ranger Services administration on 9956 6793 for investigation and compliance enforcement. Alternatively, residents are encouraged to contact the local police who have the resources to respond quickly.

**30. Our District Manager is now a Manager of Community Development, is there ever the possibility of returning to a more senior position to drive our community?**

The District Office in Mullewa is responsible to the Geraldton-based Manager of Community & Cultural Development, in turn reporting to the City's Director of Development & Community Services. The role of the District Office located in the previous Shire office building is confined to community and cultural development activities only, and is not responsible for other City functions or services. The Mullewa works depot no longer reports via the District Office, reporting instead to the Director of Infrastructure services, responsible for all maintenance and capital programs, and provision of services such as parks.

**31. Can the Mullewa District office still *independently* apply for grant funding specifically for our community to pay for local projects?**

No. The Mullewa District Office of the City is exactly that – an Office of the City. For grants to be paid to and administered by the City, all grant applications from all sections must be submitted by the City Administration. Many types of grants require matching contributions from the City, either in-kind, cash, or a combination of both.

All City staff are encouraged to consider grant funding opportunities and are also provided with advice and assistance from the grants coordination officer on all types of grant funding, as and when opportunities arise. As with all staff, the Mullewa District Office is also encouraged to draft grant applications (where the City is to be the applicant) for projects local to Mullewa. All draft grant applications are submitted to the Executive Management Team and CEO for approval. This is an established requirement, and grant applications of any kind may not be submitted independently by any City units.

Separately, for certain types of grants, Community groups in their own right are able to submit applications to funding bodies, where the funds are to be paid to that group and must be acquitted by that group – not by the City. In those cases, the City is not the applicant. Mullewa District Office staff should not be submitting applications on behalf of Community groups (as distinct from staff assisting a community group in preparing grant submission).

Note that if a condition of a grant to a community group requires a cash or in-kind contribution from the City (e.g. as in the case of some DS&R grants to sporting clubs where grants typically comprise one-third-each contribution by the club, City and DS&R), the staff of the District Office are not authorised to commit City resources for such purposes. For such grant applications by any Community group, a request for a letter of commitment of City resources needs to be submitted via the Manager and Director to the Executive Management Team.

These processes have proven to work effectively, for all sections of the City, without unnecessarily constraining Mullewa staff.

**32. Our Doctor is willing to stay longer and expand services. She also wants aged care as many others do.**

Decisions on the scope and level of services the current Doctor is willing to provide in Mullewa will reflect the Doctor's individual consideration of usual issues associated with provision of professional commercial medical services. The City has already made significant contributions towards maintaining a GP services presence in Mullewa, including provision of accommodation, and equipment for the medical practice. Any additional financial support by the City, sought for any proposed extension of scope or level of services by the Doctor, will be subject in the normal manner to negotiations, and to formal Council consideration of Budget circumstances and priorities. There are limits to demands on the constrained dollars of City ratepayers, and the provision of Health Care is a Federal/State responsibility, not a local government responsibility.

**33. What is happening with aged care?**

Aged care is not a core function of local government. Responsibility for financial support for aged care facilities and associated services rests with Federal and State Governments, not with Local Government. Aged care facilities and services are typically delivered by either commercial organisations or not-for-profit charitable entities and in both cases, require funding commitments from facility residents.

As is the case with all other areas of service that are the jurisdictional responsibility of Federal and/or State Governments, the City will continue its role of advocacy on behalf of City residents, in pursuit of provision of facilities and services needed by City residents.

However, The City is concerned about the aging population of Mullewa and the desire of community members to remain in the community as they age. Therefore, the City has taken on an advocacy role or facilitation and is currently working with MEEDAC and WACRH (WA Centre for Rural Health) to introduce aged care in Mullewa. It is our understanding that MEEDAC has made a submission to develop an aged care facility which would involve training opportunities for Aboriginal people in the provision of aged care. The City currently holds a number of lots within the township that we could consider making available for aged care facilities, under appropriate circumstances.

**34. Can we have a full time day care that is reliable and consistently open?**

Provision of child care facilities or services is not a local government function. It is Federally funded and, in addition to Federal oversight, is subject to oversight by State agencies. The City has ceased all participation in provision of child care services, and recently transferred its Family Day Care unit (Brightstars) to the not-for-profit sector.

**35. Can we have an additional ATM in town, especially during busy times?**

The City has previously made representations to various banks, with the view to having an ATM installed, however the banks have declined to pursue it, seeing the costs as unviable. To illustrate the matter of ATM placement requiring commercial justification – the banks have similarly declined the opportunity to install an ATM in the main terminal building at Geraldton Airport, which sees over 130,000 annual passenger movements. The City is not, and will not be in the business of providing ATMs, because that is very much a commercial private sector role - so this is not an issue that the City itself can pursue, other than in an advocacy role.

**36. Can we have a safe house in Mullewa?**

Provision of support facilities such as safe houses is not a local government function. The City can only play an advocacy role with Federal and State Government agencies responsible for such functions.

### **37. Can we have additional policing after 4pm and on weekends?**

This is a matter for the State Government, and is not a local government function. The City plays a strong advocacy role in this field, has regular interaction with senior Police Officers present in the City region, and is able to make representations to the responsible State Minister. The City will continue to discuss this and other matters with the Police.

## **APPENDIX 5 - Ideas to stabilise or grow the population of Mullewa**

### **1. Build the seniors population of Mullewa. Low cost of housing which could be further enhanced if health and social services support was introduced could attract seniors. This also includes building an aged care facility including a retirement village near the remaining hospital. Use the facility as a training centre for aged care provision which would create jobs and attract people to live in Mullewa.**

Health and social services are the responsibilities of Federal and State Governments therefore, the role of Local Government is very much confined to advocacy on behalf of the community.

Actual development and operation of retirement villages and aged care facilities are undertaken by the private sector or not-for-profit charitable organisations, and rarely if ever by Councils. However, the idea is worth exploring further and the City is currently doing so.

The City is aware of and concerned about the aging population of Mullewa and the desire of community members to remain in the community as they age. Therefore, the City has taken on a facilitation role and is currently working with MEEDAC and WACRH (WA Centre for Rural Health) to introduce aged care in Mullewa. It is our understanding that MEEDAC has made a submission to develop an aged care facility which would involve training opportunities for Aboriginal people in the provision of aged care. The City also holds a number of lots within the township that we could consider making available for aged care facilities under appropriate circumstances.

Some of the challenges aged care providers need to overcome or take into consideration when considering sites include locations with ease of access to nearby emergency hospital treatment facilities with operating theatres and intensive care units, and preferably with ease of access to specialist medical practitioners in disciplines most relevant to diseases and chronic ailments of the aged.

In similar vein, while some people looking to retirement from the workforce as they age may have an interest in low-cost housing, for the years before they may need to move to an aged care facility, they also have strong interest in their distance from and ease of access to specialist, emergency and intensive care medical facilities and services. Attracting seniors from outside the region, to retire to low-cost housing in Mullewa will remain challenging in the absence of such medical facilities and services.

### **2. Open up light industrial land around the town to attract trucking/fabrication, etc... type businesses. This would require investment in head works.**

Land development/subdivision is the province of the private sector and the City has previously been criticised for venturing into this field. Ultimately, such a venture requires commercial decisions by land owners and developers, including consideration of costs of head-works to make the venture financially viable. Although it is unlikely in the current economic climate that any landowner would undertake a new light industrial land subdivision on the hope of build-it-and-they-will-come doesn't mean it wouldn't happen. The City is aware of a number of light industrial/commercial sites currently vacant with either appropriate zoning or discretionary permitted uses which may suggest there is minimal private sector demand. New business operators could be enticed to open 'shop' in Mullewa if the owners of currently vacant commercial premises were to consider offering incentives on lease conditions in an effort to attract new tenants.

### **3. Farming: Diversify crops to include horticulture which could result in more jobs.**

The State Government's Agribusiness development program (Open for Business), being run by Department of Agriculture & Food is relevant to this idea. As part of economic development activities

identified in conjunction with MWDC, horticulture has been identified as a pilot cluster development area, involving the existing growers located in the Greenough area. The City can advocate for investigations regarding Mullewa's suitability for horticulture farming be undertaken.

**4. Farming: Maintain and upkeep houses on rural properties to attract families to move here to work rather than employing seasonal 'single' workers**

This idea is worthy of further consideration by farm owners.

**5. Tourism: Mullewa's own tourism website**

The City, in collaboration with MWDC, via the Progress Midwest and Growth Plan initiatives, will commission the development of a comprehensive Destination Management Plan, during the current year. That process will consider the appropriate communication and promotion channels for CGG tourism, including Mullewa. This idea is worthy of further consideration.

**6. Tourism: Pop up ventures during tourist season to service the influx of visitors.**

Whether they utilise existing vacant premises temporarily, or take the line of either container-based pop-ups, or mobile facilities, would largely be up to operators and property owners. This idea is worthy of further consideration.

**7. Tourism: Having a café in Pindar during the tourist season.**

This idea is worthy of further consideration but requires private sector initiative.

**8. Build an aluminium smelter on the tip site and turn the tip into a recycling education centre and 'One Planet Living'.**

The previous Manager of the Mullewa District Office undertook preliminary investigations regarding purchasing a small smelter that could melt aluminium cans into 1-2 kilo blocks for on selling. The investigation discovered that for such a small venture to be financially viable a substantially large volume of aluminium cans would be required. This would entail collecting and shipping cans from across the Midwest region to Mullewa which would come at substantial cost. As many community groups collect aluminium cans and sell them to raise funds for their organisation the availability of cans for the purpose of smelting is further diminished and its financial viability. Now that works to establish a Transfer Station at the Mullewa waste site have now been completed Mullewa waste will soon be transported to the Meru regional waste disposal site.

**9. Building on cheap housing or rent, create an artistic community which would be supported through programs/facilities for them to develop and share their art.**

A number of townships, both in WA and in other States and Territories have pursued this idea and found for it to be successful artists and artisans also require a market for selling their works as it is not enough just to have an enclave of artists living in close proximity. The idea is worth exploring further with broader thinking required to frame this idea in terms of a financially sustainable arts community.

**10. Build an Aboriginal cultural interpretive centre with bush tucker garden.**

This suggestion fits within a broader theme of development of Indigenous activities and attractions for tourism therefore worthy of further consideration. Grant funding opportunities may also be available to assist with such a project. Any proposal for the City to invest in a building – whether for renovation of an existing building or constructing a new building – would need to be considered by Council via its capital program.

**11. Employ local people for Shire work.**

The City recruit's personnel, and retains contractors when necessary, based on skills and capacity to undertake specific work. As and when job vacancies occur in the Mullewa-based personnel establishment, they are publicly advertised and Mullewa locals are able to apply, with selection based on merit. The best candidate is appointed. Where no suitably qualified/skilled candidate applies from Mullewa, then a job may be given to a person who lives elsewhere. The City cannot direct where an employee is to live. Some jobs do not require full-time presence in Mullewa, and can be undertaken by Geraldton-based officers.

**12. Have biannual community consultations to ensure services are still meeting community needs.**

The City implements an engagement framework which guides how and when community engagement is undertaken which is one of the reasons we are holding the Mullewa Services Summit. The City also conducts a customer satisfaction survey every year which provides the City with

important community feedback on the services we provide. Members of the Mullewa community also have the opportunity to interact directly with Council during Council meetings of which two are held at the Mullewa District Office every year.

**13. Reopen the speedway.**

Although this is not a local government core service, rather the private sector, more information is required to enable such a proposal to be examined. The City would have to consider allocating significant resources to a project of this scale and it would have to compete against higher priority needs across the whole City.

**14. Provide education past primary school.**

Education doesn't fall within Local Government jurisdiction rather is the responsibility of the State Government. Education resources are allocated on the basis of existing and forecast student numbers.

**15. Improve the image or external perception of the town. Market Mullewa in a positive light 'Being Proud of Mullewa'.**

In part, some aspects of external perception may be addressed via the Tourism Destination Management Plan process but that only deals with visitor/tourism attraction. Township image also needs to deal with business attraction, and attraction (or retention) of residents. This idea is worthy of further consideration.

**16. A good supermarket, cafés or a bakery which are places that bring people together would help maintain the existing population.**

Supermarkets, cafés and bakeries are commercial business which are dependent on sufficient population as a market base to make retail viable. New business operators could be enticed to open 'shop' in Mullewa if the owners of currently under-utilised or vacant commercial premises were to consider offering incentives on lease conditions to attract new tenants.

**17. Merge or drop certain community groups so there is less volunteer work to be done. This would increase 'fun' and family participation without volunteer burnout.**

The number of community groups is a direct reflection of the varied interests of the community. Therefore, the volume of volunteer work required in a community also reflects the needs of the community. If like-minded community groups that currently operate separately were to join together, the volunteer workload would be better shared. This idea is worthy of further consideration by community groups.



## APPENDIX 6 – Mullewa Services Booklet

### Mandatory Service Descriptions

Mandatory services are services Local Government is mandated to provide to the community.

The 'net impact' refers to the cost to provide the service which includes: Staffing wages, superannuation, annual leave and training; Governance or the indirect cost of directors and managers; Administration such as IT services, Human Resources, office equipment and supplies, uniforms, pool vehicles, plant, etc... and capital works)

1. Mullewa Branch Library Services				
Net Impact	\$25,000	a) Remain the same		
		b) Pay less for less		
		c) Pay more for more		i) Increase rates
	ii) Reduce other service level			
Description	<p>The Mullewa library functions as a branch of the Geraldton Regional Library, offering a small collection of various genres and formats which is supplemented by on-line e-resources such as downloadable e-books, e-audio books and e-magazines. Exchanges of materials with the Geraldton Library, as well as new items ensures the collection is refreshed on a regular basis. The State-wide Inter-Library Loan service provides patrons with another source of items. The branch library is a service used by a steady stream of local customers and school children on regular class excursions from the two local schools. Staff conduct a weekly Rhyme Time session to a local playgroup. The Library has one computer for public access. Geraldton Regional Library, with the assistance of Mullewa staff, organises author visits to Mullewa schools during Children's Book Week and the Big Sky Readers and Writers Festival.</p>			

2. Parks				
Net Impact	\$437,000	a) Remain the same		
		b) Pay less for less		
		c) Pay more for more		i) Increase rates
	ii) Reduce other service level			
Description	<p>Maintenance of public open spaces includes weed and pest control; planting and care of trees shrubs and gardens; care and mowing of grass and turf; managing native bushland; BBQ and park furniture maintenance; playground equipment maintenance; sporting ground facility maintenance including the pool; irrigation maintenance and upgrades; stormwater pump maintenance; graffiti removal; litter and bin collection; road reserve litter collection; fences, rails, racks guards and barrier maintenance; and emergency callouts.</p>			

3. Roads				
Net Impact	\$1,877,000	a) Remain the same		
		b) Pay less for less		
		c) Pay more for more		i) Increase rates
	ii) Reduce other service level			



<b>Description</b>	Ensures a safe and accessible transport network through the maintenance and renewal of City owned sealed and unsealed roads; drainage; footpaths; parking; roadside assets and structures; and emergency callouts.
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#### 4. Buildings

<b>Net Impact</b>	<b>\$413,000</b>	a) Remain the same			
		b) Pay less for less			
		c) Pay more for more	i) Increase rates		
			ii) Reduce other service level		
<b>Description</b>	Maintenance and renewal of City owned buildings and sporting facilities which include the Mullewa District Office, Town Hall, Men's Shed, Recreation Centre & Oval, Cemetery, Youth Centre, Medical Centre, Family Day Care Building, Masonic Lodge, Caravan Park, Pool, Mullewa Sports Club, tennis courts and bowling green.				

#### 5. Ranger Services

<b>Net Impact</b>	<b>\$80,000</b>	a) Remain the same			
		b) Pay less for less			
		c) Pay more for more	i) Increase rates		
			ii) Reduce other service level		
<b>Description</b>	Ranger Services include animal control, Local Laws & parking and CCTV. Animal Control includes compliance enforcement for dogs, cats and livestock and the managing of the Animal Impound facility. Local Laws & Parking includes compliance enforcement for off road vehicles, camping, litter and abandoned vehicles. CCTV involves the coordination of maintenance and support for the soon to be completed mirrored Police system, grant applications and Project Team involvement for successful grant CCTV projects and involvement in events. Rangers make weekly visits to Mullewa and stay overnight twice a month. They also respond to call outs such as dog attacks.				

#### 6. Rubbish Collection and the Rubbish Tip

<b>Net Impact</b>	<b>\$55,000</b>	a) Remain the same			
		b) Pay less for less			
		c) Pay more for more	i) Increase rates		
			ii) Reduce other service level		
<b>Description</b>	Waste collection at commercial and residential premises including sharps collection and the disposal of litter from parks and gardens and illegally dumped rubbish. Provision and management of the Mullewa Waste Disposal Facility for the disposal of waste in a sustainable manner. Administer programs such as eWaste, Household Hazardous Waste program, drumMUSTER and Cartridges for Planet Ark.				

#### 7. Mullewa Cemetery Services

<b>Net Impact</b>	<b>\$23,000</b>	a) Remain the same			
		b) Pay less for less			
		c) Pay more for more	i) Increase rates		
			ii) Reduce other service level		

<b>Description</b>	The Mullewa Cemetery services provided by the City, enable the community to place ashes, or bury loved ones locally at the Mullewa Cemetery. The City coordinates the interment between the family and funeral directors whilst arranging for and preparing the burial site prior to the funeral. The site is managed/cared for, after the burial, and recorded in accordance with relevant legislation. In 2013/14, there were 4 funerals (burials) at the Mullewa Cemetery, there were 8 funerals (burials) in 2014/15 and ten burials in 2015/16. This service is used by local and returning residents, local Aboriginal families and residents of the Kardaloo Aboriginal community.
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### Non- Mandatory Service Descriptions

Non-mandatory services are services provided at the discretion of the City to meet community needs or aspirations.

8. Mullewa Youth Centre and Related Services					
<b>Net Impact</b>	<b>\$223,000</b>	a) Remain the same			
		b) Pay less for less			
		c) Pay more for more		i) Increase rates	
				ii) Reduce other service level	
<b>Description</b>	This service is provided in partnership between the City and the Department of Child Protection (DCP), for the identification of 'at risk' youths in the Mullewa community. DCP offsets approx. 50% of wages for this service, which provides a 'drop-in centre' and diversionary recreational activities to youths for 35 hours per week (outside school hours and weekends). These service hours increase during school holidays in order to prevent juvenile crime. This service involves recreation, sporting, life skills development and outreach activities for primary and secondary school aged children. The Youth Centre recorded over 7,500 individual attendances last year. The Youth Centre is open 12 months per year, and is the only recreational service for youth (during 6 months of the year when the Mullewa pool is closed).				

9. Customer Service – Mullewa District Office Shop Front					
<b>Net Impact</b>	<b>\$372,000</b>	a) Remain the same			
		b) Pay less for less			
		c) Pay more for more		i) Increase rates	
				ii) Reduce other service level	
<b>Description</b>	The Mullewa Customer Service shopfront provides access to all community members including surrounding farming and remote communities, and particularly supports members of the community who may have accessibility issues (e.g. lack of transport, internet or literacy), elderly, and members of the Kardaloo Aboriginal community. This service provides cat and dog registration, heavy vehicle and road condition report information, property management functions including bookings and hire of local facilities, manage complaints from residents, receipting of payments, answer telephone enquiries, attend City owned premises for inspections and reporting of maintenance required, and set up for events. This service also includes cleaning of City-owned buildings, pool and public toilets in Mullewa and provides some information to tourists, visitors, service providers, and an after-hours / weekends support or response where necessary and production of Mullewa Mail. Mullewa Mail				

	has been produced since the early 1970s, providing a source of information for local news, event and a platform for local police, hospital and service providers to communicate with the community.
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10. Community and Cultural Workshops					
<b>Net Impact</b>	<b>\$110,000</b>	a) Remain the same			
		b) Pay less for less			
		c) Pay more for more		i) Increase rates	
				ii) Reduce other service level	
<b>Description</b>	Community workshops are an important tool where people from different cultures live in a small community. Workshops provide opportunities for multi-culture cohesion, unity and respect. This activity has previously seen the development of the Mullewa Townscape Plan (town beautification), walk and drive trails around Mullewa, and community art projects such as murals, mosaics and painting of power poles. The service included projects such as the Mullewa 'Thicker than Water' celebration of community spirit photobook, Mid-West Milifiore – a region-wide polymer clay project attracting international artists and the Hunting for Foxes - contemporary photography project involving fifty local women. This project showcased at the Geraldton Art Gallery in August, the WA Country Arts festival in September, and received state and national media coverage. All of these projects are co-funded by grants and other project sponsors.				

11. Mullewa Community Events					
<b>Net Impact</b>	<b>\$128,000</b>	a) Remain the same			
		b) Pay less for less			
		c) Pay more for more		i) Increase rates	
				ii) Reduce other service level	
<b>Description</b>	This service includes Australia Day celebrations, the Rural Family Fun Day and support to the Mullewa Agricultural Show and Wildflower Show. Each event provides opportunities for residents, farmers, and visitors to meet, reducing social isolation and promoting community cohesion. The City's effort to these events includes the administration, coordination, and facilitation of the event itself. As these events are focussed on engaging the whole town and neighbouring communities whilst stimulating the local economy.				

12. Mullewa Muster and Rodeo Signature Event					
<b>Net Impact</b>	<b>\$93,000</b>	a) Remain the same			
		b) Pay less for less			
		c) Pay more for more		i) Increase rates	
				ii) Reduce other service level	
<b>Description</b>	The Mullewa Muster & Rodeo began in 2013 and is Mullewa's signature event and known as one of the country's premier Rodeos. In 2013 the 'Beaut Ute' Competition, improved facilities and overall organisation were incorporated and in 2014 a permanent Rodeo Arena and the Whip Cracking Competition were added. The 2012 event saw over 2500 spectators, and the 2014 event saw almost 3500 people attend. The City's contribution to this event consists of staff wages, and materials to ensure				

	the events' objectives of revitalising and strengthening community spirit, to showcase Mullewa to the rest of the state and country.
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<b>13. Mullewa Community Services Support</b>				
<b>Net Impact</b>	<b>\$107,000</b>	a) Remain the same		
		b) Pay less for less		
		c) Pay more for more		i) Increase rates
ii) Reduce other service level				
<b>Description</b>	<p>Services include the Doctor's surgery, support to the Bushfire Brigade, Community Resource Centre, and the Mullewa Mail community newsletter. Doctor's surgery provides a service for residents, including those who may not have a vehicle or ability to travel to a doctor. The City supports the Mullewa Bushfire Brigade with administration, a facility, and vehicle maintenance/registration. The Community Resource Centre provides tourist information to visitors especially in wildflower season, internet services, book exchange, local crafts etc... The City supports this through staff on its management committee and the provision of the facility which it operates from.</p>			

<b>14. Mullewa Community Groups Support</b>				
<b>Net Impact</b>	<b>\$71,000</b>	a) Remain the same		
		b) Pay less for less		
		c) Pay more for more		i) Increase rates
ii) Reduce other service level				
<b>Description</b>	<p>The City provides significant support to several local community groups with the town and neighbouring areas, this includes the Mullewa Men's Shed, Mullewa Women's Indigenous Group, Mullewa Arts Development Group, Progress Associations, and various sporting clubs and groups. The Men's Shed for instance, operate from a City owned facility, and provides an avenue for skill development with the local Aboriginal corporation, MEEDAC. FY2013/14, saw the City support MEEDAC in the provision of a carpentry course, together with Durack TAFE, which was run from the Men's Shed. The Mullewa Women's Indigenous Group is a local art studio supported by the City, to help develop the group's skillsets and business acumen to become a sustainable local enterprise. Support to other groups generally takes the form of administrative assistance (photocopying, computer use etc.), use of City facilities e.g.: transit house, or recreation centre.</p>			

<b>15. Vehicle and Driver Licensing Services</b>				
<b>Net Impact</b>	<b>\$33,000</b>	a) Remain the same		
		b) Pay less for less		
		c) Pay more for more		i) Increase rates
ii) Reduce other service level				
<b>Description</b>	<p>This service is used daily by the community, is funded (excluding wages) by the Department of Transport (DOT) and pays the City a commission per transaction. The service provides the community with DOT services including License applications and renewals for driving, boats and firearms, learning to drive incl. theory tests and log books, renew vehicle registrations, permits, and number plates and enables community members do not have internet access, may not have transport, or not</p>			

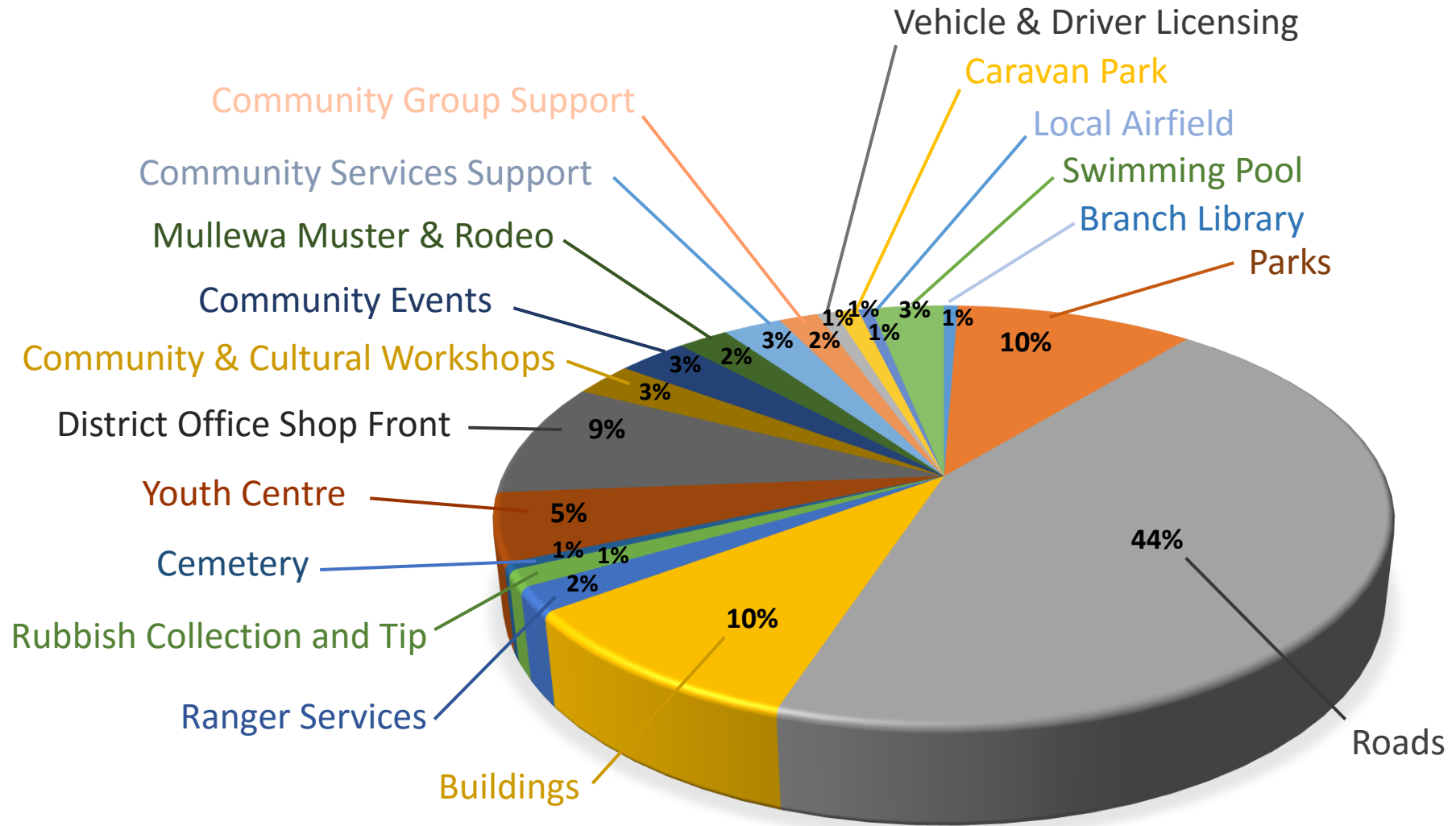
	comfortable travelling long distances to access the same service. The service is heavily utilised by local farmers whom have many vehicles to license or renew at once, local residents and Kardaloo residents.
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16. Mullewa Caravan Park and Associated Facilities			
Net Impact	\$43,000	a) Remain the same	
		b) Pay less for less	
		c) Pay more for more	i) Increase rates
ii) Reduce other service level			
Description	The Mullewa Caravan Park has been owned and managed by the local government since 1981. The park has powered and unpowered caravan and camping sites, a laundry with fee-per-use washing machines and dryer, showers, toilets, and an electric barbeque for park users. During 2013/14 financial year, the park received 1322 visitors, whom stayed (collectively) for 2078 nights.		

17. Mullewa Local Airfield			
Net Impact	\$25,000	a) Remain the same	
		b) Pay less for less	
		c) Pay more for more	i) Increase rates
ii) Reduce other service level			
Description	The Mullewa Airfield has a 1.44km long gravel runway, small hangar, airfield lighting, and a toilet. The Airfield is used by the Royal Flying Doctors Service. As Mullewa is an hour's drive to the nearest regional hospital, medical staff can utilise the RFDS to extract a patient from Mullewa, which (depending on the injury) may need to be flown to Perth anyway. This is a potentially life-saving service, and was utilised by the RFDS in 2013/14 5 times, and 4 times in 2012/13. The airfield also provides a service for use by general aviation operators, and in 2015/16 the airfield supported 4 additional users which included a minister to open the Mullewa Muster and use by two local aerial spraying contractors.		

18. Swimming Pool and Associated Activities			
Net Impact	\$133,000	a) Remain the same	
		b) Pay less for less	
		c) Pay more for more	i) Increase rates
ii) Reduce other service level			
Description	The Mullewa Swimming Pool is a hub for social and wellbeing activities throughout the community. The Mullewa Swimming Pool operates from Mid-October thru to early April dependant on weather. As a Group One Facility there are minimum requirements to operate by the WA Health Department. During the summer months Mullewa can record consecutive weeks whereby the temperature is in excess of 40C degrees each day with no other respite. In addition, it reduces the number of incidents of anti – social behaviour within the community. Programs and events include: Education Department swimming lessons; Swimming Carnivals & Competition carnivals; Swimming Training; Leisure swimming for families and individuals; Water Safety & Awareness programs; Physiotherapy classes; Disability Inclusion and Access; School Excursions; Birthday parties and social club wind-ups.		

## APPENDIX 7 - Mullewa Services Spending Distribution



## APPENDIX 8 - Service Level Recommendation Ballot Tally

### Mandatory Services

<b>1. Mullewa Branch Library Services</b>	a) Remain the same	46		
	b) Pay less for less	9		
	c) Pay more for more	1	i) Increase rates	-
			ii) Reduce other service level	-
<b>2. Parks</b>	a) Remain the same	48		
	b) Pay less for less	3		
	c) Pay more for more	3	i) Increase rates	-
			ii) Reduce other service level	2
<b>3. Roads</b>	a) Remain the same	33		
	b) Pay less for less	3		
	c) Pay more for more	19	i) Increase rates	8
			ii) Reduce other service level	5
<b>4. Buildings</b>	a) Remain the same	30		
	b) Pay less for less	4		
	c) Pay more for more	8	i) Increase rates	1
			ii) Reduce other service level	4
<b>5. Ranger Services</b>	a) Remain the same	34		
	b) Pay less for less	5		
	c) Pay more for more	5	i) Increase rates	2
			ii) Reduce other service level	2
<b>6. Rubbish Collection &amp; the Rubbish Tip</b>	a) Remain the same	49		
	b) Pay less for less	6		
	c) Pay more for more	-	i) Increase rates	-
			ii) Reduce other service level	-
<b>7. Mullewa Cemetery Services</b>	a) Remain the same	51		
	b) Pay less for less	2		
	c) Pay more for more	2	i) Increase rates	1
			ii) Reduce other service level	1

### Non-Mandatory Services

<b>8. Mullewa Youth Centre and Related Services</b>	a) Remain the same	40		
	b) Pay less for less	11		
	c) Pay more for more	4	i) Increase rates	-
			ii) Reduce other service level	1
<b>9. Customer Service – District office Shop Front</b>	a) Remain the same	45		
	b) Pay less for less	9		
	c) Pay more for more	2	i) Increase rates	-
			ii) Reduce other service level	1
<b>10. Community and Cultural Workshops</b>	a) Remain the same	35		
	b) Pay less for less	16		
	c) Pay more for more	3	i) Increase rates	-
			ii) Reduce other service level	1



<b>11. Mullewa Community Events</b>	a) Remain the same	48		
	b) Pay less for less	1		
	c) Pay more for more	6	i) Increase rates	-
			ii) Reduce other service level	4
<b>12. Mullewa Muster &amp; Rodeo – Signature Event</b>	a) Remain the same	44		
	b) Pay less for less	7		
	c) Pay more for more	3	i) Increase rates	-
			ii) Reduce other service level	1
<b>13. Mullewa Community Services Support</b>	a) Remain the same	43		
	b) Pay less for less	5		
	c) Pay more for more	7	i) Increase rates	2
			ii) Reduce other service level	1
<b>14. Mullewa Community Groups Support</b>	a) Remain the same	44		
	b) Pay less for less	7		
	c) Pay more for more	3	i) Increase rates	-
			ii) Reduce other service level	3
<b>15. Vehicle &amp; Driver Licensing Services</b>	a) Remain the same	53		
	b) Pay less for less	1		
	c) Pay more for more	3	i) Increase rates	1
			ii) Reduce other service level	-
<b>16. Mullewa Caravan Park and Associated Services</b>	a) Remain the same	51		
	b) Pay less for less	2		
	c) Pay more for more	4	i) Increase rates	-
			ii) Reduce other service level	3
<b>17. Mullewa Local Airfield</b>	a) Remain the same	50		
	b) Pay less for less	3		
	c) Pay more for more	2	i) Increase rates	1
			ii) Reduce other service level	1
<b>18. Swimming Pool and Associated Activities</b>	a) Remain the same	51		
	b) Pay less for less	3		
	c) Pay more for more	3	i) Increase rates	-
			ii) Reduce other service level	1

## APPENDIX 9 – Additional Questions

### 1. How does the Mullewa Muster contribute economically to Mullewa?

The majority of the thousands of people who attend the Mullewa Muster are not from Mullewa. Visitors to any town will require accommodation, fuel, food and drink and may purchase souvenirs, artwork etc... all of which is available from local shops or at stalls during the event. As there are a number of walking trails and places of interest to see, visitors may decide to stay an extra day which results in further tourist spending.

### 2. What is the City prepared to do for the aged people who cannot stay in their homes?

Please see APPENDIX 4 - page 34 - question 33 for the answer to this question.

### 3. Why is Mullewa losing its hospital and why isn't the City fighting to keep it?

Mullewa is not losing its hospital, rather it is being redeveloped. Hospitals are the responsibility of Federal and State Governments, not Local Government. As is the case with all other areas of service that are the responsibility of Federal and/or State Governments, the City plays and

important advocacy role. In the case of the Mullewa hospital, the City is working with WACHS (West Australian Country Health Service) throughout the redevelopment process, advocating on behalf of the Mullewa community.

4. **Why does it cost \$25,000 to provide the Mullewa Airfield?**  
 Costs involved with the airfield operation are related to compliance with aviation standards which include regular inspections and maintenance by City staff and contractors. Facilities such as the runway lighting system including the Pilot Activated Lighting control, windsocks and associated lighting. Also the runway surface and markers all require regular maintenance.
5. **Is it true Mullewa rates are being aligned towards Geraldton/Greenough rates even though we don't have the same services (shops, restaurants, cinemas, beach)?**  
 Yes, Mullewa rates are being aligned with Geraldton's which is part of a process mandated under the Governor's orders for amalgamation which require alignment of rates across the two previous local government districts. Rates on UV-valued farming properties in the previous Mullewa district were reduced on a staged basis over the past four to five years as at the time of amalgamation, Mullewa rural UV rates were higher than those of Geraldton-Greenough. Because of the relatively low average GRV valuations on residential properties in the Mullewa township, and at Pindar, a majority of properties only pay Minimum Rates. In 2010-11 the Mullewa minimum payment was \$321. In 2016-17 the CGG Minimum Payment is \$1010 to which Mullewa residential rates have now been aligned.
6. **What services have been initiated and updated for Mullewa since the amalgamation?**  
 Since the amalgamation the Mullewa Muster has been developed and is now part of the annual community events delivered in Mullewa; the Mullewa Youth Centre and service has been updated; the Waste Transfer Station was initiated and brought in line with Department of Environmental Protection regulations; and a childcare centre was initiated under Bright Stars Childcare which is now operated by Ngala Bright Stars Family Day Care Services. Existing services provided at the time of amalgamation have not been removed.
7. **How many local people are employed at the Mullewa depot?**  
 Of the 13 people employed at the Mullewa Depot, ten are Mullewa residents.
8. **How much revenue is being generated by the Patience camp?**  
 The Patience camp is a private business, not a City of Greater Geraldton facility, therefore we do not have access to this information.
9. **Can employees stop using the term 'the City' and simply say CGG to avoid excluding everyone who doesn't live in the urban part of the local government area?**  
 The term 'the City' is an abbreviation for 'The City of Greater Geraldton'. Mullewa is part of the City of Greater Geraldton and is therefore included in the term 'the City'. The term 'the City' is not referring to an urban city centre of a larger Council area and is intended to be an inclusive term for all residents residing within the boundaries of the City of Greater Geraldton.
10. **Can an 80kmh speed limit for road trains be implemented during harvest season?**  
 Road speeds are determined by Main Roads WA and not the City of Greater Geraldton. However, this year the City has started a campaign encouraging road users to slow down on gravel roads to a maximum of 70kmh in an effort to increase driver safety whilst keeping gravel roads in good condition.
11. **It is clear the rates collected for Mullewa do not cover the costs. What grants or monies could Mullewa receive if it were independent?**  
 Many types of grants require matching contributions of either in-kind, cash or a combination of both. Before the amalgamation the Shire of Mullewa was operating at a \$1.2 million loss per year so is difficult to say how successful Mullewa, as an independent shire, would be in receiving grants if it were still an independent Shire. Prior to the amalgamation a number of positions were grant funded (i.e. Lotterywest and Royalties for Regions). These funding bodies no longer fund positions. Please see APPENDIX 4 - page 33 - question 31 for more information.