The City will not be reprinting the advertisement as the budget process will require new rates in the dollar to be advertised in July.

6 APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil.

Existing Approved Leave

June	From	To (inclusive)
Cr V Petersen	2 June 2011	8 July 2011

7 PETITIONS, DEPUTATIONS OR PRESENTATIONS

SC229 PETITION: GERALDTON TO MULLEWA TRANSPORT	
AGENDA REFERENCE:	**11/062499**
AUTHOR:	**M Atkinson, Manager Infrastructure Planning & Design**
EXECUTIVE:	**P Melling, Director Sustainable Communities**
DATE OF REPORT:	**15 June 2011**
FILE REFERENCE:	**GO/0007**
APPLICANT / PROPONENT:	**Community**
ATTACHMENTS:	**Yes**

SUMMARY:
The attached petition was received by the City from the Mullewa community on 14 June 2011, requesting that access to Mullewa be improved via a daily bus or train service.

PROPONENT:
The proponents are petitioners from the Mullewa Indigenous Women's Group.

BACKGROUND:
The Shire of Mullewa, soon to be amalgamated with the City of Geraldton-Greenough has an approximate population of 900 and is located approximately 100kms northeast of Geraldton.

Petitioners have indicated they experience isolation in Mullewa and desire more cost-effective access to services in Geraldton. The petitioners have also proposed that the improvement in transport has potential to improve Mullewas' access to Geraldton's education facilities and employment opportunities. Other potential benefits may include greater tourism exposure (e.g. wildflowers), social inclusion and improvement in wellbeing for the Mullewa community.

Bus services currently operate to and from Mullewa and Geraldton four days a week, by Transwa, however Transwa are not oriented towards daily business travel.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION:
At this stage, no direct consultation has been undertaken by the City in this regard. There was however a submission through Civic Evolution to improve transport services between Geraldton and Mullewa.

COUNCILLOR/OFFICER CONSULTATION:
At this stage, no specific liaison has taken place between Councillors and officers.

STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS:
It is expected that there would be involvement with agencies such as the Public Transport Authority and owners of the rail network.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS:
Receiving this petition and referring to CEO for subsequent reporting is not expected to have any policy implications.

FINANCIAL AND BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:
The only anticipated cost at this stage is the officers' time associated with the investigation, which is catered for in the Infrastructure Planning and Design operating budget.

STRATEGIC & REGIONAL OUTCOMES:

Strategic & Plan for the Future Outcomes:

Key Result Area 1:	Opportunities for Lifestyle.
Outcome 1.1:	A sustainable built urban and rural environment.
Strategy 1.1.3:	Facilitate increased levels of cycling, walking and public transport.

Regional Outcomes:
Potential to improve connectivity with the Mullewa district, however may impact on Council operational budget and uncertainty regarding intentions and commitments of state agencies at this stage.

ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, ENVIRONMENTAL & CULTURAL ISSUES:

Economic:
May stimulate employment.

Social:
Likely to improve connectivity and inclusion between the communities of Geraldton and Mullewa. May reduce current frustrations associated with Mullewa's isolation.

Environmental:

Initiatives associated with utilisation of existing road infrastructure has potential to reduce passenger vehicle movements between Geraldton and Mullewa.

Cultural & Heritage:
Improved transport services to and from Geraldton may offset Mullewa's physical isolation and benefit the indigenous community through social inclusion.

RELEVANT PRECEDENTS:
There are no relevant precedents.

DELEGATED AUTHORITY:
There is no delegated authority.

VOTING REQUIREMENTS:
Simple Majority required.

OPTIONS:

Option 1:
As per Executive Recommendation in this report.

Option 2:
That Council by Simple Majority pursuant to item 2.4 Petitions – Standing Orders Local Law 2007 RESOLVES to:

1. REFUSE to receive the petition requesting transport services between Geraldton and Mullewa; and
2. MAKES the determination based on the following reason:
    a. To be determined by Council

Option 3:
That Council by Simple Majority RESOLVES to DEFER the request.

CONCLUSION:
A petition has been received from the Shire of Mullewa community to improve transport services between Mullewa and Geraldton. To respond the City requires time to investigate the proposal and provide a decision.

EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATION:
That Council by Simple Majority pursuant to item 2.4 Petitions – Standing Orders Local Law 2007 RESOLVES to:

1. RECEIVE the petition from the Shire of Mullewa Indigenous Women's Group; and
2. REQUEST the Chief Executive Officer of the City of Geraldton-Greenough to provide Council with a report on the requested proposal within 90 days.

COUNCIL DECISION
MOVED CR BRICK, SECONDED CR MCILWAINE
That Council by Simple Majority pursuant to item 2.4 Petitions – Standing Orders Local Law 2007 RESOLVES to:

1. **RECEIVE the petition from the Shire of Mullewa Indigenous Women's Group; and**
2. **REQUEST the Chief Executive Officer of the City of Geraldton-Greenough to provide Council with a report on the requested proposal within 90 days.**

CARRIED 8/2

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CARRIED 8/2