



## ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

### AGENDA

28 JUNE 2022

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**CITY OF GREATER GERALDTON**  
**ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL**  
**TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, 28 JUNE 2022 AT 5.00PM**  
**CHAMBERS, CATHEDRAL AVENUE**

**A G E N D A**

The State of Emergency and Public Health Emergency declared by the State Government on 16 March 2020, remains in force. Please refer to the information on the current restrictions [COVID-19 coronavirus: What you can and can't do \(www.wa.gov.au\)](https://www.wa.gov.au)

**DISCLAIMER:**

The Presiding Member advises that the purpose of this Council Meeting is to discuss and, where possible, make resolutions about items appearing on the agenda. Whilst Council has the power to resolve such items and may in fact, appear to have done so at the meeting, no person should rely on or act on the basis of such decision or on any advice or information provided by a Member or Officer, or on the content of any discussion occurring, during the course of the meeting. Persons should be aware that the provisions of the Local Government Act 1995 (Section 5.25(e)) and Council's Meeting Procedures Local Laws establish procedures for revocation or rescission of a Council decision. No person should rely on the decisions made by Council until formal advice of the Council decision is received by that person. The City of Greater Geraldton expressly disclaims liability for any loss or damage suffered by any person as a result of relying on or acting on the basis of any resolution of Council, or any advice or information provided by a Member or Officer, or the content of any discussion occurring, during the course of the Council meeting.

**1 DECLARATION OF OPENING**

**2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

I would like to respectfully acknowledge the Yamatji people who are the Traditional Owners and First People of the land on which we meet/stand. I would like to pay my respects to the Elders past, present and future for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and hopes of Yamatji people.

**3 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE, APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Present:

Officers:

Others:

Members of Public:

Members of Press:

Apologies:

Leave of Absence:

Cr S Cooper

Cr V Tanti

**4 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

Cr M Librizzi declared a Financial Indirect interest in Item No. CCS702 N RFT 2223 05 Bulldozer Wet Hire for Gravel Pits as he is delivering consultancy services to the owner of Red Dust Holdings.

Cr J Clune declared an Impartiality interest in Item No. IS261 WALGA Proposed Advocacy Position – Management of Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades as he is a Moonyoonooka Bush Fire Brigade member.

**5 RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE**

There are no questions from previous meetings.

**6 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

*Questions provided in writing prior to the meeting or at the meeting will receive a formal response. Please note that you cannot make statements in Public Question Time and such statements will not be recorded in the Minutes.*

*Our Local Laws and the Local Government Act require questions to be put to the presiding member and answered by the Council. No questions can be put to individual Councillors.*

**7 APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE****Existing Approved Leave**

Councillor	From	To (inclusive)	Date Approved
Cr S Cooper	31 May 2022	30 June 2022	31/5/2022
Cr V Tanti	17 June 2022	28 July 2022	26/4/2022
Cr M Reymond	30 June 2022	6 July 2022	22/2/2022
Cr M Librizzi	3 August 2022	14 September 2022	25/1/2022
Cr R Hall	12 October 2022	26 October 2022	31/5/2022

*\*Note: If Elected Members' application for leave of absence is for the meeting that the request is submitted, they will be noted as an apology until Council consider the request. The granting of the leave, or refusal to grant the leave and reasons for that refusal, will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting*

*If an Elected Member on Approved Leave subsequently attends the meeting, this will be noted in the Minutes.*

**EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council by Simple Majority pursuant to Section 2.25 of the Local Government Act 1995 RESOLVES to:

1. APPROVE Leave of Absence for:
  - a. Cr RD Hall for the period 2 July to 19 July 2022.

**8 PETITIONS, DEPUTATIONS**

Nil.

**9 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

RECOMMENDED that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 31 May 2022, as previously circulated, be adopted as a true and correct record of proceedings.

**10 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIR AND PRESENTATIONS***Events attended by the Mayor or his representative*

<b>DATE</b>	<b>FUNCTION</b>	<b>REPRESENTATIVE</b>
1 June 2022	Triple M Radio Interview – Outcomes of Council	Mayor Shane Van Styn
3 June 2022	Triple M Radio Interview - Events for WA Day	Mayor Shane Van Styn
3 June 2022	Emu in the Sky - National Reconciliation Stargazing Event	Deputy Mayor Cr Jerry Clune
7 June 2022	Regular Catch up – Mayor / CEO	Mayor Shane Van Styn
7 June 2022	Regular Catch up – Media Team	Mayor Shane Van Styn
7 June 2022	Triple M Radio Interview – Verge Side Collection	Mayor Shane Van Styn
7 June 2022	GWN7 Interview - Batavia Motor Inne	Mayor Shane Van Styn
7 June 2022	Concept Forum	Mayor Shane Van Styn
8 June 2022	Geraldton Guardian Interview – Strike Energy Announcement	Mayor Shane Van Styn
9 June 2022	Mid West Aboriginal Business Forum	Deputy Mayor Cr Jerry Clune
10 June 2022	Midwest Offshore Wind Farm - Copenhagen Energy - Platform Communications	Mayor Shane Van Styn
13 June 2022	Regular Catch up – Mayor / CEO	Mayor Shane Van Styn
13 June 2022	Regular Catch up – Media Team	Mayor Shane Van Styn
13 June 2022	Citizenship Ceremony	Mayor Shane Van Styn
14 June 2022	Triple M Radio Interview - Capped Airfares between Geraldton and Perth	Mayor Shane Van Styn
16 June 2022	Regional Capitals Alliance WA (RCAWA) Meeting – via electronic means	Mayor Shane Van Styn
17 June 2022	Triple M Radio Interview – EV Highway	Mayor Shane Van Styn
18 June 2022	Paint it REad Hatching Day - Ngala	Mayor Shane Van Styn
18 June 2022	Theatre 8 Matinee	Mayor Shane Van Styn
18 June 2022	Radio Mama Interview – Regular Update	Mayor Shane Van Styn
20 June 2022	Regular Catch up – Mayor / CEO	Mayor Shane Van Styn
20 June 2022	ABC Interview – Electric Vehicle Station and Scooters	Mayor Shane Van Styn
21 June 2022	Rio Tinto Meeting – Discuss Community Grants Process	Mayor Shane Van Styn
21 June 2022	ABC Interview – Geraldton Hospital Redevelopment	Mayor Shane Van Styn
21 June 2022	Agenda Forum	Mayor Shane Van Styn
24 June 2022	Headstone Re-dedication for Able Seaman Thomas Welsby Clark	Cr Robert D Hall
24 June 2022	HMAS Stalwart III - Official Reception	Mayor Shane Van Styn
25 June 2022	Freedom of Entry Ceremony – HMAS Stalwart III	Mayor Shane Van Styn
25 June 2022	City of Greater Geraldton Welcome Reception for HMAS Stalwart III	Mayor Shane Van Styn
26 June 2022	HMAS Stalwart III - Commanding Officers Lunch	Mayor Shane Van Styn
27 June 2022	HMAS Stalwart III Sea Day	Mayor Shane Van Styn
28 June 2022	Regular Catch up – Mayor / CEO	Mayor Shane Van Styn
28 June 2022	Regular Catch up – Media Team	Mayor Shane Van Styn

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28 June 2022	Regional Capitals Australia (RCA) – June Planning Meeting	Mayor Shane Van Styn
28 June 2022	Ordinary Meeting of Council	Mayor Shane Van Styn

*Note: Whilst it is noted that Council Members may have also been in attendance at the above events, this is a record of attendance by the Mayor, or where a Council Member has been asked to represent the Mayor.*

**11 UNRESOLVED BUSINESS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**  
Nil.



## **12 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND OFFICERS**

### **12.1 REPORTS OF DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES**

Nil.

**12.2 REPORTS OF CORPORATE AND COMMERCIAL SERVICES****CCS698 COUNCIL POLICY 4.20 JOINT REFORM**

<b>AGENDA REFERENCE:</b>	<b>D-22-068011</b>
<b>AUTHOR:</b>	<b>B Pearce, Manager Corporate Compliance and Safety</b>
<b>EXECUTIVE:</b>	<b>P Radalj, Director Corporate and Commercial Services</b>
<b>DATE OF REPORT:</b>	<b>21 June 2022</b>
<b>FILE REFERENCE:</b>	<b>GO/19/0008</b>
<b>ATTACHMENTS:</b>	<b>Yes (x1) Council Policy 4.20 Joint Reform (v2)</b>

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

The purpose of this report is to seek Council review of Council Policy 4.20 Joint Reform and to consider retirement of the policy.

**EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council by Simple Majority pursuant to Section 2.7 of the Local Government Act 1995 RESOLVES to:

1. RETIRE Council Policy 4.20 Joint Reform.

**PROPONENT:**

The proponent is the City of Greater Geraldton.

**BACKGROUND:**

Council Policy 4.20 Joint Reform, was endorsed by Council on 24 January 2017 and reviewed on 26 May 2020 (Item No. CCS498). It is now due for biennial review. The Joint Reform policy is a consolidation of four previous joint reform policies which were endorsed following the 2011 amalgamation of the Shire of Mullewa and the City of Geraldton-Greenough.

The objectives of the previous policies and the existing Council Policy are to protect and maintain the interests and assets of the former Shire of Geraldton-Greenough and Shire of Mullewa. The policy principles include:

- Asset management, and budgeting through a 5-year budget process, and maintaining existing reserves and restricted funds.
- Establishing a head administration office and depot in Geraldton, an administration office and depot in Mullewa, and reviewing consultative mechanisms for consultation within each former local government community.
- Maintaining employment opportunities within the local communities, where there is a City presence.
- Ensuring that the road network within each district is not disadvantaged following the amalgamation.

In the eleven years since the creation of the City of Greater Geraldton, the principles of the policy have been fully implemented through the establishment of a Mullewa District Office and depot, commitment to local employment opportunities, ongoing district consultation and local projects, and incorporation of the road network funding into the City's asset management program. Asset management overall is incorporated within the City of Greater Geraldton expenditure profile.

As the objectives of the policy have now been met it is suggested that the policy may be retired. This is a matter for Council consideration.

### **COMMUNITY, ECONOMY, ENVIRONMENT AND LEADERSHIP ISSUES:**

#### **Community:**

The City of Greater Geraldton 2031 Strategic Community Plan and 2021-25 Corporate Business Plan enable the Council to use its best endeavours to meet the needs of the current and future generations of the City through commitment to environmental protection, social advancement and economic prosperity.

#### **Economy:**

There are no adverse economic impacts.

#### **Environment:**

There are no adverse environmental impacts.

#### **Leadership:**

The objectives of the joint reform policies, endorsed by the Council in 2011, and the consolidated policy (2017) have been fully implemented during the eleven year period following the amalgamation of the City of Geraldton-Greenough and the Shire of Mullewa. The City's Integrated Planning Framework contains plans and strategies underpinning everything we do within our municipality by informing our current and future actions. Council may therefore consider retirement of the Joint Reform policy.

#### *Disclosure of Interest:*

No Officer involved in the preparation of this report has a declarable interest in this matter.

### **RELEVANT PRECEDENTS:**

Council Policy 4.20 Joint Reform was last reviewed by Council on 26 May 2020 (Item No. CCS498). Council have retired policies previously, for example Council Policy 4.27 Entry Conditions Local Government Buildings retired on 23 March 2021 (Item No. CCS581).

**COMMUNITY/COUNCILLOR CONSULTATION:**

Councillors were consulted via Briefing Note on 10 June 2022. At the close of the consultation period six responses had been received. Five supporting retirement of the policy, and one asking for surety that services and conditions will still be met.

**LEGISLATIVE/POLICY IMPLICATIONS:**

Pursuant to section 2.7 of the Local Government Act 1995 the role of Council includes determination of Council Policies:

**2.7. Role of council**

(1) *The council —*

(a) *governs the local government's affairs; and*

(b) *is responsible for the performance of the local government's functions.*

(2) *Without limiting subsection (1), the council is to —*

(a) *oversee the allocation of the local government's finances and resources; and*

(b) *determine the local government's policies.*

**FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:**

There are no financial or resource implications.

**INTEGRATED PLANNING LINKS:**

<b>Strategic Direction: Leadership</b>	<b>Aspiration: A strong local democracy with an engaged community, effective partnerships, visionary leadership and well informed decision-making.</b>
Outcome 4.2	Decision making is ethical, informed and inclusive.

**REGIONAL OUTCOMES:**

There are no impacts to regional outcomes.

**RISK MANAGEMENT:**

The regular review of council policies ensures that policy content is compliant with the provisions of relevant legislative and that the policy objectives align with the aspirations and vision within the City's Strategic Community Plan.

**ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED BY CITY OFFICERS:**

That Council by Simple Majority pursuant to Section 2.7 of the Local Government Act 1995 RESOLVES to:

1. APPROVE Council Policy 4.20 Joint Reform version 2, for a further two year period.

**CCS699 CITY OF GREATER GERALDTON BUDGET 2022-23**

<b>AGENDA REFERENCE:</b>	<b>D-22-068994</b>
<b>AUTHOR:</b>	<b>R Doughty, Chief Financial Officer</b>
<b>EXECUTIVE:</b>	<b>P Radalj, Director Corporate and Commercial Services</b>
<b>DATE OF REPORT:</b>	<b>8 June 2022</b>
<b>FILE REFERENCE:</b>	<b>FM/6/0022</b>
<b>ATTACHMENTS:</b>	<b>Yes (x6)</b>
	<b>A. Annual Budget 2022-23</b>
	<b>B. Fees and Charges Schedule 2022-23</b>
	<b>C. Capital Works Program 2022-23</b>
	<b>D. Long Term Financial Plan 2022-32</b>
	<b>E. LTFP Schedules 2022-32</b>
	<b>F. Addendum Corporate Business Plan 2021-25</b>

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

This report seeks Council adoption of the City of Greater Geraldton 2022-23 Financial Budget. The report also seeks the adoption of the Long Term Financial Plan (revised) for the 10-year period covering 2022-23 to 2032-33 and updates to 2021-25 Corporate Business Plan.

**EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council by Absolute Majority pursuant to Section 6.2 of the Local Government Act 1995 RESOLVES to:

**A. Rates & Minimum Payments 2022-23**

- ADOPT the following General Rates against the valuations supplied by Landgate (as amended) as at 1 July 2022 for 2022-23 in accordance with sections 6.32 and 6.33 of the *Local Government Act 1995*:

<b>Rate Types</b>	<b>Rate-in-the-dollar (Cents)</b>
CGG GRV	12.927
CGG UV	0.677

*Note: The City has moved away from differential rating and introduced a single-rating GRV system. The prior year's CGG Residential and CGG Non-Residential categories have been merged into one General Rate CGG GRV.*

- ADOPT the following Minimum Payments for the City of Greater Geraldton for 2022-23, in accordance with section 6.35 of the *Local Government Act 1995*:

<b>Rate Types</b>	<b>Minimum Payment</b>
CGG GRV	\$1,027
CGG UV	\$1,027

**B. 2022-23 General Charges, Concessions, Interest**

3. IMPOSE no service charges on land for 2022-23;
4. RAISE a charge of \$7.00 per instalment for 2022-23 where the ratepayer has elected to pay their rates by instalments and in addition apply a 3% interest rate charge in accordance with section 6.45(3) of the *Local Government Act 1995* and regulations 67 and 68 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*;
5. PROVIDE the option for ratepayers to pay their rates as a single payment or by two (2) or four (4) equal instalments in accordance with section 6.45(1) of the *Local Government Act 1995* and regulation 64(2) of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*;
6. NOTE the rates set by the State Government for the Emergency Services Levy (ESL) for Category 2, 4 and 5 regions for 2022-23 and apply these rates on assessments against valuations from Landgate as at 1 July 2022;
7. NOTE the interest rate set by the State Government for late payment of ESL by property owners is 7% per annum and will be charged 30 days after the due date;
8. NOTE that the City is not responsible for setting Emergency Services Levy rates and simply acts as a collection agent for the funds on behalf of the State Government;
9. ISSUE rates instalment notices as soon as practicable with instalment due dates being no less than two months apart from the date of the first instalment becoming due in accordance with section 6.50 of the *Local Government Act 1995*;
10. CHARGE an interest rate of 6% on any outstanding rates and service charges and any costs of proceedings to recover any such charge that remain overdue as described in accordance with section 6.51 of the *Local Government Act 1995* and regulation 70 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*; and
11. CHARGE interest to be applied on outstanding debts exceeding 60 days after date of invoice at a rate of 6% per annum in accordance with section 6.13 of the *Local Government Act 1995*.

**C. 2022-23 Fees and Charges**

12. ADOPT the 2022-23 Schedule of Fees and Charges in accordance with section 6.16(3) of the *Local Government Act 1995*.

**D. 2022-23 Capital Works & Loans**

13. ADOPT the 2022-23 Capital Works Program Budget; and
14. ADOPT the new Loan debenture program in accordance with section 6.20(4) of the *Local Government Act 1995*.

**E. General Charges and Concessions**

15. NOTE that Council on an individual assessment basis does offer 'Incentives' under its City Centre Revitalisation Program in the form of concessions or waiving of rates for a set period of time in accordance with section 6.47 of the *Local Government Act 1995*;

16. ENDORSE the continuation in 2022-23 of the 80% concessional arrangement to Murchison Region Aboriginal Corporation based on the land being used primarily for charitable purposes in accordance with section 6.47 of the *Local Government Act 1995*; and
17. NOTE that Council waives penalty interest and the administration fee for eligible ratepayers approved for a Financial Hardship payment plan.

**F. 2022-23 Allowances**

18. APPROVE the Mayor's annual local government allowance of \$85,800 in accordance with section 5.98(5) of the *Local Government Act 1995*;
19. APPROVE the Mayor's annual attendance fees of \$48,704 in accordance with section 5.99 of the *Local Government Act 1995*;
20. APPROVE the Deputy Mayor's annual local government allowance of \$21,450 in accordance with section 5.98A of the *Local Government Act 1995*;
21. APPROVE the annual fees of \$32,470 for every other elected member (excluding the Mayor) in accordance with section 5.99 of the *Local Government Act 1995*;
22. CEASE payment of an Information Technology and Telecommunication allowance of \$3,500 per year per elected member in accordance with section 5.99A of the *Local Government Act 1995*;
23. APPROVE the reimbursement of expenses incurred by an elected member in accordance with section 5.98(2)(b) and (3) of the *Local Government Act 1995* and regulation 32 of the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996*;
24. APPROVE the reimbursement of childcare costs of up to \$35 per hour or the actual cost incurred by an elected member when attending a meeting in accordance with section 5.98(2)(a) and (3) of the *Local Government Act 1995* and regulation 31(1)(b) and regulation 32(1) of the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996*; and
25. APPROVE the reimbursement of travel costs incurred by an elected member in accordance with section 5.98(2)(a) and (3) of the *Local Government Act 1995* and regulation 31(1)(b) of the *Local Government (Administration) Regulation 1996* and *Income Tax Assessment Act s28.25*.

**G. Material Variance Reporting for 2022-23**

26. ADOPT a reporting variance of greater than \$50,000 or 10% in accordance with regulation 34(5) of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*.

**H. Adoption of the 2022-23 Budget**

27. ADOPT the 2022-23 Annual Budget for the City of Greater Geraldton.

**I. Adoption of Long Term Financial Plan 2022-2032**

28. ADOPT the Long Term Financial Plan (revised) for the 10 year period covering 2022-2032.

**J. Adoption of Addendum to Corporate Business Plan 2021-2025**

29. ADOPT an Addendum to the Corporate Business Plan 2021-25 that updates and revises proposed actions for the financial years 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25.

**PROPONENT:**

The proponent is the City of Greater Geraldton.

**BACKGROUND:**

As part of the function of local government and its operations, each year the Council is required, under section 6.2 of the Local Government Act 1995, to formally adopt its annual financial year budget, to enable the administration to carry out the defined services and programs and to raise revenue through rates and fees and charges.

Consistent with section 6.2(4) of the Local Government Act 1995 and regulations 22 - 31 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, the 2022-23 Budget for the City of Greater Geraldton includes the following:

- Rates and Service Charges imposed for 2022-23;
- Capital Works;
- Fees and Charges;
- General Charges and Concessions;
- Allowances;
- Borrowings;
- Reserve Accounts;
- Budget Estimates for Adoption;
- Estimated Expenditure; and
- Trading Undertakings.

**1. Rating & Minimum Payments**

The raising of revenue via annual rates is an important source of funds for all Councils throughout Australia. The *Local Government Act 1995* (the Act) empowers WA Councils to impose general rates and minimum payments.

The elected Council will consider the content of its Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) when preparing the Annual Budget for 2022-23 and subsequent years, and it is expected that adopted budgets will be closely aligned with both the proposals and underpinning assumptions contained within the proposed LTFP. Review of the LTFP occurs each year as budgets are prepared, to account for performance information and changing circumstances. Aligning annual budgets with the LTFP enables Council to set priorities within its resourcing capabilities in sustainably maintaining and delivering the assets and the range and level of services required by the community in a fiscally responsible manner.



**Rates Modelling (2022-23):**

The proposed rates model in 2022-23 forms part of a response and recovery strategy to bring the City's budget over an appropriate timeframe back from an operating deficit to surplus position due to the impacts of COVID-19 and inflationary cost pressures. This model is based on the following:

- Merge existing Differential Rates CGG Residential & CGG Non-Residential, and have one general GRV rate in 2022-23.
- Reducing by 17% GRV Residential RID from 15.1128 to 12.927 cents in the dollar. Non-Residential under the proposed merge option will also have the same proposed RID as Residential.
- Reducing CGG UV RID from 0.7654 to 0.6770 cents in the dollar.
- 4.4% increase plus 0.6% growth to overall rates revenue which includes and accounts for both GRV & UV property revaluations that will take effect from 1 July 2022.
- Average rate increase of around 3.6% for residential properties.
- No proposed change to minimum payments.

The table below summarises the amount to be levied by rating categories in 2022-23.

<b>Rating Category</b>	<b>Proposed Rates Billing to be levied 2022-23</b>	<b>Number of Rateable Properties</b>
CGG GRV	\$46,726,692	19,533
CGG UV	\$ 3,390,130	1,099
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$50,116,822</b>	<b>20,632</b>

The growth in the annual rate base has been downgraded from 1.0% in 2021-22 to 0.6% in 2022-23. This reflects activity in relation to new residential and commercial development which is expected to remain consistent in the short to medium term.

**CGG GRV:**

This category will include any GRV rated property in that part of the City district that is used for residential or non-residential purposes other than rural purposes.

This rating category reflects the level of rating required to raise the necessary revenue for Council to operate efficiently and provide the diverse range of services and programs and associated infrastructure/facilities required for developed residential, commercial, industrial and urban areas of the designated parts of the City.

Residential property valuations that take effect from 1 July 2022 have on average increased by 20%. The range of movements is between minus 60% to plus 70%. Excluding properties on minimum payments, around 20% of residential properties will have zero to less movement in their rates bill in 2022-23 compared to 2021-22. The balance of properties will all be subject to varying increases based on their property valuation movement.

**CGG UV:**

This category includes all UV rated property in that part of the City district that is used primarily for rural, farming and mining purposes.

This rating category reflects the level of rating required to raise the necessary revenue for Council to operate efficiently and provide a diverse range of services and programs for rural areas including infrastructure to this designated part of the City district.

The average UV property valuation increase that will take effect from 1 July 2022 is 19%. Giving consideration that UV properties undergo yearly revaluations, this increase is the largest seen for a number of years. Historically, valuation movements are no greater or less than 2%.

Landgate's basis for this overall UV properties valuation increase is:

- The market for broadacre rural properties has continued to improve on the back of low interest rates, relatively good seasonal conditions, and strong commodity prices; and
- The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has seen increased interest in rural smallholdings which has taken up excess supply in the market and seen prices improve after decreases in recent years.

96% of properties (excluding minimums) will have an increase to their property valuations between 19% and 21%. This indicates the impact was consistent over all rural localities. While the proposed UV RID has been decreased to help offset the overall increase in property valuations, it is proposed that rates revenue derived from this rating category will increase by around 5% in 2022-23.

**Long Term Financial Plan:**

Usually when reviewing the City's revenue requirements, the following principles underpin the forward financial planning process:

- Continual positive movements and/or achievement of all financial and sustainability ratio benchmarks within a realistic and acceptable timeframe;
- Aim or work towards in each financial year within our Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) to realise a net operating surplus from ordinary activities; and
- Generate enough revenue to renew assets when required to maintain capacity of performance and associated levels of services. The new LTFP will continue to set annual renewal expenditure at levels that manage asset renewal demand profiles.

As the City continues to recover from the financial impacts (short and longer term) incurred due to the pandemic crisis and the impacts of Cyclone Seroja, new challenges are presented which Council need to consider as both part of their 2022-23 budget deliberations and in preparation of its new Long Term Financial Plan (2022-32).

The table below provides a comparison between the recommended operating budget 2022-23 and the original operating budget 2021-22.

**Table 1: Comparison 2021-22 Original Budget and Recommended 2022-23 Budget**

Operating Statement	Original Budget 2021-22	2022-23 Recommended Budget
OPERATING REVENUE	\$000s	\$000s
Rates	48,211	50,330
Operating Grants, Subsidies & Contributions	8,515	8,936
Fees & Charges	21,827	23,785
Interest Earnings	801	1,019
Other	372	1,053
<b>Total Operating Revenue</b>	<b>79,726</b>	<b>85,123</b>
OPERATING EXPENDITURE		
Employee Costs	(28,831)	(30,460)
Materials & Contractors	(21,699)	(23,841)
Utilities	(2,877)	(2,739)
Insurance	(838)	(975)
Interest/Borrowing Costs	(990)	(825)
Depreciation On Assets	(24,879)	(25,399)
Other Expenses	(2,664)	(2,784)
<b>Total Operating Expenditure</b>	<b>-82,778</b>	<b>-87,023</b>
<b>Net Result From Ordinary Activities Deficit</b>	<b>-3,052</b>	<b>-1,900</b>

### Budget Result

As per the above table, the forecast net result from ordinary activities will see the City continue to operate in a deficit position in the short term as it recovers from the impacts of COVID-19. However, the operating deficit position has been reduced from the budgeted 2021-22 position (\$3.05m to \$1.90m) and the new LTFP underpins a return to a surplus position within a five (5) year timeframe.

**Revenue:**

The proposed adjustment to budget revenue in 2022-23 compared to 2021-22 is due materially to the following:

- 4.4% increase plus 0.6% growth to overall rates revenue which includes and accounts for both GRV & UV property revaluations that will take effect from 1 July 2022.
- Recovery or part recovery of major revenue streams (i.e. airport) that were significantly impacted by COVID-19.
- Higher interest rates achieved on investments.

**Expenditure:**

The proposed adjustment to budget expenditure in 2022-23 compared to 2021-22 is due materially to the following:

- Enterprise Agreement indexation.
- Compulsory Superannuation increase from 10% to 10.5%.
- 15% increase to Insurance premiums.
- Continued “rollout” of FOGO to 500 households.
- Reinstatement of an annual Verge Side Collection.
- Increase in the Parks budget to cover escalating costs in verge maintenance and street tree maintenance.
- Fuel price inflation.
- Microsoft licensing price increase.

On the expenditure side of operations the City over the last two years has been able to keep wage growth at 1.5% per annum well below overall cost movements. However, the City has not been able to avoid and has had to absorb additional cost pressures due to inflationary rises and supply chain issues that have impacted the economy. The last 12 months has seen Perth CPI move by 7.6% and a greater percentage movement would be expected in the regions.

The City will also face future expenditure pressures stemming from demand for greater wage increases to combat rising costs of living and higher depreciation expense that is likely to result from an infrastructure revaluation due to increases in unit rates caused by inflationary factors and supply chain issues.

The real operating result includes non-cash depreciation and amortisation expenses, representing in effect the City’s annual costs of a capital nature.

*Adoption of a rates model other than as proposed in the Executive Recommendation will require reassessment of the Budget result, and will depend amongst other matters on related Council determinations as to use of own-source funds or loan funds in the adjusted budget proposed to be adopted by Council.*

Budget formulation is informed by a Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP), one of the mandatory elements required of all WA Councils, as part of the Integrated Planning Framework which has been in place from 1 July 2013.

The changes in the various rates-in-the-dollar recommended by the Executive enables Council to set priorities within its resourcing capabilities to sustainably deliver the assets and services required by the community in a fiscally responsible manner.

## 2. Capital Program

**Table 2: 2022-23 Capital Program**

Asset Category	New	Renewal	Total
Buildings	4,639,000	1,074,000	5,713,000
Plant & Equipment	224,160	2,369,750	2,593,910
Furniture & Equipment	85,650	664,400	750,050
Artwork		138,000	138,000
Roads	1,469,538	9,879,800	11,349,338
Bridges Floodways & Major Culverts		2,502,992	2,502,992
Footpaths & Cycleways	2,258,903	483,800	2,742,703
Recreation	1,557,090	229,198	3,851,288
Carparks	721,000	250,000	971,000
Meru Landfill	5,186,194	248,000	5,434,194
Airport	53,517	111,000	164,517
Drainage		541,000	541,000
Lighting		844,000	844,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,195,052</b>	<b>21,400,940</b>	<b>37,595,992</b>

The City's planned Capital Budget for 2022-23 is \$37.6 million. This expenditure is to be funded from General Revenue, Reserves and funding provided by Federal and State Agencies as detailed below:

**Table 3: Funding Breakdown**

Asset Category	Own Source Revenue	Own Source Reserve	External Grants & Contributions	Total
Buildings	1,165,000	1,581,333	2,966,667	5,713,000
Plant & Equipment	2,078,910		515,000	2,593,910
Furniture & Equipment	750,050			750,050
Artwork	138,000			138,000
Roads	7,640,792		3,708,546	11,349,338
Bridges Floodways & Major Culverts			2,502,992	2,502,992
Footpaths & Cycleways	908,180		1,834,523	2,742,703
Recreation	2,052,500	673,198	1,125,590	3,851,288
Carparks	971,000			971,000
Meru Landfill	3,195,875	2,099,194	139,125	5,434,194
Airport	164,517			164,517
Drainage	541,000			541,000
Lighting	844,000			844,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,449,824</b>	<b>4,353,725</b>	<b>12,792,443</b>	<b>37,595,992</b>

As determined by the Department of Local Government, in relation to assets managed by Councils in WA, a basic financial sustainability benchmark for Councils is that they should expend at least the equivalent of 90% of their annual asset depreciation expense on asset renewal. Failure to pursue achievement of that benchmark over a reasonable number of years would expose the City to unacceptable risks from asset deterioration. This leads to a decline in asset functionality, safety and community amenity, compounding the magnitude of the asset renewal funding problem in future years, attracts criticism for failure to recognise the principle of intergenerational equity, and would be contrary to the interests of the City and the Community.

### **3. Fees and Charges**

A global unit increase of 5% is planned for Fees & Charges to assist the City in recovering escalating costs, excluding entry related Aquarena fees where there are no proposed changes.

Where appropriate, changes will be made on a per annum basis due to the following:

- Service no longer provided so no fee or charge applicable.
- New service being provided.
- Cost of service has changed.
- Change to service delivery requiring an alteration to the fee or charge structure.

Within function areas relating to building licenses, planning and development approval and health approvals, the City is limited by statutory regulations and capping on fees and/or charges applied, preventing full cost recovery of these services.

Benchmarking has been undertaken with other local governments corresponding fees, where possible – but noting that not all Councils have yet determined their 2022-23 budgets.

The provision of free residential tipping at Meru will continue for a further year. Domestic and commercial rubbish charges will increase by 3% in 2022-23.

### **4. General Charges, Concessions and Interest**

Council does offer 'Incentives' under its City Centre Revitalisation Program to encourage development within the City Centre. The form of 'Incentives' which are assessed and approved by Council on an individual basis can be in the form of concessions or waiving of rates for a set period of time. There are City Centre Revitalisation incentives included in the 2022-23 Budget.

Council in 2017-18 also approved an 80% concessional arrangement with Murchison Region Aboriginal Corporation on annual rates levied on their properties used for charitable purpose which is proposed to continue into 2022-23.

In 2021-22 the interest rate of 8% applied in 2020-21 to any outstanding rates and service, and sundry outstanding debt, was reduced to 6%. This will remain unchanged for 2022-23.

The rate of 6% interest may be applied to sundry debts 60 days after issue of the invoice.

## 5. Allowances

It is proposed in 2022-23 to adjust these allowances and fees as denoted in the table below:

Allowance & Attendance Category	2021-22	2022-23
Mayor's Annual Allowance	\$78,000	\$85,800
Mayor's Annual Attendance Fee	\$39,000	\$48,704
Deputy Mayor's Annual Allowance	\$19,500	\$21,450
Councillors Attendance Fee	\$27,000	\$32,470
IT Allowance	\$ 3,500	\$ 0

*\*The City provides Council Members with an iPad device, and sim card (if required) for the duration of their term on Council.*

The Salaries and Allowances Tribunal has set the following:

For a Council member other than the Mayor or President			For a Council member who holds the office of Mayor or President	
Band	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum
1	\$25,219	\$32,470	\$25,219	\$48,704

For a Mayor or President		
Band	Minimum	Maximum
1	\$52,539	\$91,997

## 6. Borrowings

New borrowings proposed in 2022-23 are based on previous Council decisions (Item No. IS227 & IS260) and exclusively relate to Self-Supporting Loans as described below:

Applicant	Loan Amount	Purpose
Geraldton Amateur Basketball Association	\$550,000	Construct a stadium extension
Geraldton Clay Target Club	\$100,000	Construct large shed facility

## Reserve Accounts

No new reserves are proposed to be established in 2022-23.

Existing reserves have been established and/or are used where there is a legal or statutory requirement to do so, are mechanisms for accumulating cash for future capital outlays, managing cyclical expenditure and meeting liability provisions. It is proposed that Cash Reserves in 2022-23 will fund the establishment of a new Waste Transfer Station at Meru Landfill and the design and delivery of the Geraldton Airport Microgrid.

**COMMUNITY, ECONOMY, ENVIRONMENT AND LEADERSHIP ISSUES:****Community:**

Various initiatives included in the budget will create and improve social outcomes in the community, including new infrastructure as part of the Spalding Precinct Plan.

**Economy:**

Initiatives included in the budget like the Aviair flight path partnership, will continue Council's investment towards achieving aspirations included in the region's Growth Strategy. The proposed Capital Program provides local businesses and contractors with a diverse range of works opportunities and is also aimed at supporting and boosting the local economy.

**Environment:**

Initiatives such as the continuation of the FOGO trial to households, Geraldton Airport Microgrid project and Chapman Road cycle path, clearly indicates that Council wishes to continue to take positive steps towards environmentally friendly approaches.

**Leadership:**

Section 6.2 of the Local Government Act 1995 requires Council to prepare and adopt a Budget for 2022-23.

***Disclosure of Interest:***

No Officer involved in the preparation of this report has a declarable interest in this matter.

**RELEVANT PRECEDENTS:**

Councils adopt a Budget including a rates model for every financial year.

**COMMUNITY CONSULTATION:**

Community consultation is undertaken in the development of the Strategic Community Plan (SCP) as part of the Integrated Planning Framework for Local Government. As part of this process the City engages with the Community in forming the vision and priorities that underpin the SCP which in turn incorporated into the annual budget.

**COUNCILLOR CONSULTATION:**

City of Greater Geraldton Councillors have been actively engaged in formulation of the 2022-23 Budget through a series of Budget Workshops conducted through February to June of 2022, enabling consideration of revenue and expenditure requirements and the capital works program.

**LEGISLATIVE/POLICY IMPLICATIONS:****Local Government Act 1995 - Section 6.2**

Section 6.2 of the *Local Government Act 1995* requires that in preparing its annual budget the Council is to have regard to the contents of its plan for the future prepared in accordance with section 5.56. Under the Integrated Planning Framework for Local Government, that is the Strategic Community Plan and Corporate Business Plan. This section also requires that the City must prepare detailed estimates of:

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- (a) Expenditure;
- (b) Revenue and income, independent of general rates; and
- (c) The amount required to make up the 'deficiency' if any shown by comparing the estimated expenditure with the estimated revenue and income.

Section 6.2(3) requires that all expenditure, revenue and income must be taken into account unless otherwise prescribed. *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*, regulation 32 prescribes amounts that may be excluded in calculating the 'budget deficiency'.

Section 6.2(4) requires the annual budget to incorporate:

- (a) Particulars of estimated expenditure proposed;
- (b) Detailed information relating to the rates and service charges which will apply, including:
  - i. Amount estimated to be yielded by the general rate;
  - ii. Rate of interest to be charged on unpaid rates and service charges;
- (c) Fees and charges;
- (d) Borrowings and other financial accommodations proposed;
- (e) Reserve account allocations and uses; and
- (f) Any proposed land transactions or trading undertakings per section 3.59.

*Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*, regulations 22 through 31 prescribe requirements in relation to form and content of the Budget and required Notes to and forming part of the Budget.

### **Ministerial Approval Requirements**

Should Council seek to adopt a rating and minimum payments model other than that set out in the Executive Recommendation, then such a determination should be deferred to enable necessary assessment under the requirements of sections 6.33 and 6.35 of the Act. If Ministerial approvals are required in respect of a different model of differential rates and minimum payments, such approvals must be obtained before Council can subsequently adopt a revised Budget.

### **Local Government Act 1995 - Section 6.45 - Options for payment of rates or service charges**

- (1) A rate or service charge is ordinarily payable to a local government by a single payment but the person liable for the payment of a rate or service charge may elect to make that payment to a local government, subject to subsection (3), by —
  - (a) 4 equal or nearly equal instalments; or
  - (b) such other method of payment by instalments as is set forth in the local government's annual budget.

**Local Government Act 1995 - Section 6.47 - Concessions**

“Subject to the *Rates and Charges (Rebates and Deferments) Act 1992*, a local government may at the time of imposing a rate or service charge or at a later date resolve to waive\* a rate or service charge or resolve to grant other concessions in relation to a rate or service charge”.

(\*absolute majority required.)

There are no impediments deriving from the *Rates and Charges (Rebates and Deferments) Act 1992*.

**Regulatory Requirements:**

*Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996* – Regulation 26: specifies requirements for information on concessions, for inclusion in annual budgets.

*Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996* – Regulation 42: specifies requirements for information on concessions, for inclusion in annual financial reports.

**Policy Implications:**

The City’s revised Strategic Community Plan and the Corporate Business Plan are the core planning documents that have been used to inform the LTFP along with other strategic documents and are also the basis for preparation of the Annual Budget.

**FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:**

Details of the budget estimates for 2022-23 are contained in the attached documents.

**INTEGRATED PLANNING LINKS:**

<b>Strategic Direction: Leadership</b>	<b>Aspiration: A strong local democracy with an engaged community, effective partnerships, visionary leadership and well informed decision-making.</b>
Outcome 4.4	Healthy financial sustainability that provides capacity to respond to change in economic conditions and community priorities.

**REGIONAL OUTCOMES:**

Delivery of programs and projects continue to provide benefits for the region through capital expenditure, business support, employment opportunities and encouraging tourism.

**RISK MANAGEMENT:**

Section 6.2 of the *Local Government Act 1995* requires Council to prepare and adopt a Budget for 2022-23 by 31 August 2022, or by such extended time as the Minister allows. Having regard to cash flow requirements for ongoing City operations, it is in the best interests of all Councils for their budget to be adopted at the earliest practicable opportunity, to enable issue of rates notices and commencement of revenue flows as early as possible in the new financial year.

**ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED BY CITY OFFICERS:**

The following options were considered by City Officers:

**Alternative Option One**

That Council by Absolute Majority pursuant to Section 6.2 of the Local Government Act 1995 RESOLVES to:

1. ADOPT the 2022-23 Budget as set out in items 1 through 29 of the Executive Recommendation *but with the following changes*:
  - a. To be determined by Council; and
2. MAKE the determination based on the following reason/s:
  - a. To be determined by Council.

**Alternative Option Two**

That Council by Simple Majority pursuant to section 5.20 of the Local Government Act 1995 RESOLVES to:

1. DEFER consideration of the 2022-23 Budget; and
2. MAKE the determination based on the following reason/s:
  - a. To be determined by Council.

**Consideration of Options**

Parts 'A' through 'H' (numbered items 1 through 27) of the Executive Recommendation address all of the elements covering imposition of rates and minimum payments, estimates of revenue and income other than rates, estimates of expenditure, charges, concessions and interest, the schedule of fees and charges, elected member allowances and, in relation to Notes comprising part of the Budget, allocations to and use of funds from reserves, and proposed new loans. Parts 'A' through 'H' are inter-dependent and together produce the budget result, and thus they need to be considered and resolved together by Council, rather than separately.

Part 'I' of the Executive Recommendation seeks Council endorsement and adoption of the Long Term Financial Plan which has been updated and revised, to reflect the budget proposed in this report, with 2022-23 now representing Year 1 of the plan.

Part 'J' of the Executive Recommendation seeks Council endorsement and adoption of an Addendum to 2021-25 Corporate Business Plan to reflect updates to proposed activities and/or actions.

Any *significant/material* change to any of the revenue, income or expenditure elements of the recommended Budget (comprising parts 'A' through 'H' inclusive) would require re-casting of the budget and assessment of the consequent budget result, to ensure compliance with section 6.34 of the *Local Government Act 1995*.

In effect section 6.34 requires prior Ministerial approval of a proposed budget if the amount estimated to be yielded by general rates does not fall within the range 90% to 110% of the 'budget deficiency' as envisaged in section 6.2 of the Act, and as calculated in the rate setting statement per *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulation 32*.

Council may choose to make changes to the recommended Budget via Alternative Option One – provided that those changes do not have such a significant/material effect on expenditure or revenue estimates that would require re-casting of the whole Budget and those changes can be and are replicated in Year 1 of the LTFP without any material impact.

Should Council wish to make significant/material changes to revenue or expenditure components of the proposed 2022-23 Budget that in effect delivers a result significantly different than contained within the Long Term Financial Plan, then Alternative Option Two (Deferment) should be pursued. This option would need the determined reasons to include clear directions and an unambiguous indication of an alternative required budget outcome to guide recasting of the Budget for re-presentation to Council at a later date.

**CCS700 STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY TO 31 MAY 2022**

<b>AGENDA REFERENCE:</b>	<b>D-22-068070</b>
<b>AUTHOR:</b>	<b>J Bagshaw, Senior Management Accountant / Analyst</b>
<b>EXECUTIVE:</b>	<b>P Radalj, Director Corporate and Commercial Services</b>
<b>DATE OF REPORT:</b>	<b>7 June 2022</b>
<b>FILE REFERENCE:</b>	<b>FM/17/0009</b>
<b>ATTACHMENTS:</b>	<b>Yes (x1) Monthly Management Report for period ended 31 May 2022</b>

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with a comprehensive report on the City's finances to 31 May 2022.

The statements in this report include no matters of variance considered to be of concern for the current budgeted end of year position.

**EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council by Simple Majority pursuant to Regulation 34 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 RESOLVES to:

1. RECEIVE the monthly financial statement of activity for the period 1 July 2021 to 31 May 2022, as attached.

**PROPONENT:**

The proponent is the City of Greater Geraldton.

**BACKGROUND:**

The financial position at the end of May 2022 is detailed in the attached report and summarised as follows, the variances between Year-to-Date (YTD) budgeted forecasts and actuals (including commitments):

Operating Income	\$	2,548,372	3.2%	over YTD Budget	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Operating Expenditure	\$	1,017,310	1.3%	under YTD Budget	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Net Operating	\$	3,565,681	137.6%	over YTD Budget	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Capital Expenditure	\$	4,035,947	9.7%	under YTD Budget	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Capital Revenue	\$	2,616,903	24.2%	under YTD Budget	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Cash at Bank – Municipal	\$	22,844,805
Cash at Bank – Reserve	\$	32,845,560

Total Funds Invested	\$	55,362,492
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Current Rates Collected to May 2022	95.76%
Current Rates Collected to May 2021	94.43%

Rates Arrears Collected to May 2022	52.96%
Rates Arrears Collected to May 2021	52.03%

The attached report provides explanatory notes for items greater than 10% or \$50,000. This commentary provides Council with an overall understanding of how the finances are progressing in relation to the budget. The financial position presented in the May financials show a YTD positive variance of \$3,565,681 in the net operating surplus/(deficit) result (this takes into account commitments).

Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs) prepayment was received in April, with the prepaid amount increasing from the usual 50% to 75%. This is the main contributing factor behind the large positive operating variance result.

### **COMMUNITY, ECONOMY, ENVIRONMENT AND LEADERSHIP ISSUES:**

#### **Community:**

There are no adverse community impacts.

#### **Economy:**

There are no adverse economic impacts.

#### **Environment:**

There are no adverse environmental impacts.

#### **Leadership:**

The Financial Management Regulations require presentation each month of a Statement of Financial Activity accompanied by other supporting information that is considered relevant. In addition to the compliance requirements, the purpose of regularly reporting on the financial activities of the City is to enable Council Members to monitor and review the allocation of financial and other resources against the budget. Reporting on a regular basis evidences ongoing financial management and the performance of the accounting systems. The monthly report provides a summary of the organisation's liquidity and going concern status.

#### *Disclosure of Interest:*

No Officer involved in the preparation of this report has a declarable interest in this matter.

### **RELEVANT PRECEDENTS:**

Council is provided with financial reports each month.

### **COMMUNITY/COUNCILLOR CONSULTATION:**

There has been no community/councillor consultation.

**LEGISLATIVE/POLICY IMPLICATIONS:**

Section 6.4 of the Local Government Act 1995 and Regulation 34 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 require the local government to prepare a statement of financial activity each month, reporting on the source and application of funds as set out in the adopted annual budget.

A statement of financial activity and any accompanying documents are to be presented at an Ordinary Meeting of the Council within two months after the end of the month to which the statement relates.

**FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:**

As disclosed in the attached report.

**INTEGRATED PLANNING LINKS:**

<b>Strategic Direction: Leadership</b>	<b>Aspiration: A strong local democracy with an engaged community, effective partnerships, visionary leadership and well informed decision-making.</b>
Outcome 4.2	Decision making is ethical, informed and inclusive
Outcome 4.3	Accountable leadership supported by a skilled and professional workforce
Outcome 4.4	Healthy financial sustainability that provides capacity to respond to change in economic conditions and community priorities

**REGIONAL OUTCOMES:**

There are no impacts to regional outcomes.

**RISK MANAGEMENT:**

Provision of monthly financial reports to Council fulfils relevant statutory requirements and is consistent with good financial governance.

**ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED BY CITY OFFICERS:**

There are no alternative options to consider.

### 12.3 REPORTS OF INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

IS261	WALGA PROPOSED ADVOCACY POSITION – MANAGEMENT OF VOLUNTEER BUSH FIRE BRIGADES
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<b>AGENDA REFERENCE:</b>	<b>D-22-068828</b>
<b>AUTHOR:</b>	<b>C Lee, Director Infrastructure Services</b>
<b>EXECUTIVE:</b>	<b>C Lee, Director Infrastructure Services</b>
<b>DATE OF REPORT:</b>	<b>13 June 2022</b>
<b>FILE REFERENCE:</b>	<b>GO/15/0009</b>
<b>ATTACHMENTS:</b>	<b>Yes (x1)</b> <b>Arrangements for Management of Bush Fire Brigades - Proposed Advocacy Position - May 2022</b>

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The purpose of this report is to seek Council endorsement, or otherwise, of the Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) Proposed Advocacy Position in regards to future arrangements for the management of volunteer Bush Fire Brigades (BFBs).

#### EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATION:

That Council by Simple Majority pursuant to Section 5.20 of the Local Government Act 1995 RESOLVES to:

1. ENDORSE the WALGA proposed Advocacy Position regarding the management of volunteer BFBs; and
2. DIRECT the Chief Executive Officer to provide a written response to WALGA in support of its Advocacy Position.

#### PROPONENT:

The proponent is the City of Greater Geraldton.

#### BACKGROUND:

As part of WALGA's 2021 Emergency Management Survey, Local Governments were asked about their level of satisfaction with current arrangements for managing BFBs. 92 Local Governments (69 of which manage BFBs) provided the following feedback:

- 93% were not wholly satisfied with the current arrangements for the management of BFBs; and
- 51% expressed that their Local Government does not support the requirements for Local Governments to manage BFBs.

The State Government is currently drafting the *Consolidated Emergency Services Act* (CES Act), which consolidates the *Fire Brigades Act 1942*, *Bush Fires Act 1954* and *Fire and Emergency Services Act 1998* into a single piece of legislation, anticipated to be released as a Green Bill for consultation in early 2023.



The development of the CES Act represents an important and timely opportunity for local government authorities to determine their position on the future management of volunteer BFBs. An endorsed Advocacy Position will guide WALGA in its engagement with the State Government on this issue.

WALGA has prepared the attached proposed Advocacy Position for local government authorities to consider.

In summary, the position proposes a Hybrid Management Model whereby *“Local Governments continue to manage BFBs where they have the capacity, capability and resources to do so; however where they do not have the capacity, capability and resources, responsibility for management of BFBs is transferred to DFES”*.

### **COMMUNITY, ECONOMY, ENVIRONMENT AND LEADERSHIP ISSUES:**

#### **Community:**

Local Government relies heavily on the support and contribution of volunteers across a number of its services. The proposed Advocacy Position has been developed to ensure that, in particular, any future transfer of the management of volunteer BFBs to DFES is a voluntary process to maintain the integrity of the service, whatever future management arrangements are in place.

#### **Economy:**

There are no adverse economic impacts associated with the proposed Advocacy Position however, volunteer BFBs provide protection to the rural industry sector that generates significant economic support for the region.

#### **Environment:**

There are no adverse environmental impacts associated with the proposed Advocacy Position.

#### **Leadership:**

Endorsement of the WALGA Advocacy Position may demonstrate Council's commitment to the ongoing support and management of the City's volunteer BFBs.

#### *Disclosure of Interest:*

No Officer involved in the preparation of this report has a declarable interest in this matter.

### **RELEVANT PRECEDENTS:**

WALGA consistently advocates on behalf of Local Government and consults with the sector across a broad range of issues seeking feedback that informs final positions to be considered by WALGA State Council.

**COMMUNITY/COUNCILLOR CONSULTATION:**

There has been extensive Councillor consultation on the issues of the future management of the City BFBs during the recent implementation of the new WHS legislation. Council were also provided with a briefing on the proposed Advocacy Position at the June 2022 Concept Forum.

In June 2022, the City undertook to survey the ten BFB's it manages in regards to future management and WALGA's advocacy position on the matter.

Volunteer members were invited to take the survey by email, Smoke Signals, the City's BFB newsletter and text messages. The survey was open for 16 days from 2 May to 17 May 2022 and 36 responses (16% of members) were received. A summary of the results is as follows;

The majority of respondents, 58% or 21 persons, DO NOT support the proposed hybrid model.

Of the three alternative management options provided, 74% or 14 persons, chose Option 2 (Improvements - continue with the current arrangements with additional support provided by the state government with respect to increased funding and better access to training resources and other support).

The majority of respondents, 71% or 22 persons, said they support WALGAs advocacy position.

**LEGISLATIVE/POLICY IMPLICATIONS:**

There are no legislative or policy implications associated with the endorsement of the proposed WALGA Advocacy Position.

**FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:**

At the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 26 April 2022, Council under item IS258 Work Health and Safety resolved to make provision of \$180,000-\$200,000 in the FY2022-23 operating budget for 2 new FTE's and a vehicle required to meet the ongoing legislative requirements of the WHS Act, and appropriately resource the management of all City volunteers.

In addition to the above, it is estimated that the City Emergency Operations Officer currently expends approximately 50% of their time on volunteer BFB administration tasks associated with training, provision of equipment, fleet management and brigade liaison and attendance at meetings etc.

The City is also responsible for providing compensation for injury caused to present and former BFB volunteers as a result of their duties. WALGA advise that since 2012 the aggregate limit of liability has increased from \$250,000 to \$750,000 and the annual cost of insurance has nearly doubled (92%) from \$47.50 to \$91.20 per volunteer.

The WALGA proposed Advocacy Position provides eight (8) Position Statements, which include reference to full and independent reviews of both the Emergency Services Levy (ESL) and the Local Government Grant Scheme (LGGS). If successful, this review may lead to State Government provision of the financial and resource support Local Government requires to fulfil its emergency management obligations.

#### **INTEGRATED PLANNING LINKS:**

<b>Strategic Direction: Community</b>	<b>Aspiration: Our Culture and heritage is recognised and celebrated. We are creative and resilient. We can all reach our full potential.</b>
Outcome 1.4	Community safety, health and well-being is paramount.
<b>Strategic Direction: Leadership</b>	<b>Aspiration: A strong local democracy with an engaged community, effective partnerships, visionary leadership and well informed decision-making.</b>
Outcome 4.7	Council understands its roles and responsibilities and leads by example.

#### **REGIONAL OUTCOMES:**

There are no impacts on regional outcomes associated with the endorsement of the proposed WALGA Advocacy Position.

#### **RISK MANAGEMENT:**

Should Council resolve not to support the WALGA proposed Advocacy Position and support an alternative management model, there may be a risk to long term BFB memberships should members not be in support of Council's preferred management option.

#### **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED BY CITY OFFICERS:**

Development of the proposed WALGA Advocacy Position identified four (4) possible options for the future management of the City BFBs as follows:

1. Status quo - continue with the current arrangements for the management of BFBs whereby the majority are managed by Local Government and transfer arrangements are negotiated on an ad hoc basis between DFES and Local Governments (or their BFBs).
2. Improvements - continue with the current arrangements for Local Government management of BFBs with additional support provided by the State Government with respect to increased funding and better access to training resources and other support.
3. Hybrid Model - Local Government continues to manage BFBs where they have the capacity, capability and resources to do so; however where they do not have the capacity, capability and resources, responsibility for the management of BFBs is transferred to DFES.
4. Transfer - Responsibility for management of all BFBs is transferred to the State Government, consistent with the arrangements in other States and Territories.

Should Council resolve not to support the proposed WALGA Advocacy Position, Council may choose to support one of the alternative management models identified above and advise WALGA accordingly.

**12.4 REPORTS OF OFFICE THE CEO**

Nil.

**12.5 REPORTS TO BE RECEIVED****RR38 REPORTS TO BE RECEIVED – JUNE 2022**

<b>AGENDA REFERENCE:</b>	<b>D-22-070876</b>
<b>AUTHOR:</b>	<b>R McKim, Chief Executive Officer</b>
<b>EXECUTIVE:</b>	<b>R McKim, Chief Executive Officer</b>
<b>DATE OF REPORT:</b>	<b>15 June 2022</b>
<b>FILE REFERENCE:</b>	<b>GO/6/0012-008</b>
<b>ATTACHMENTS:</b>	<b>Yes (x3) 1 x Confidential</b>
	<b>A. DCSDD182 - Delegated Determinations and Subdivision Applications for Planning Approval</b>
	<b>B. CEO095 – WALGA State Council Agenda – 6 July 2022</b>
	<b>C. Confidential - CCS701 – List of Accounts Paid Under Delegation - May 2022</b>

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

The purpose of this report is to receive the Reports of the City of Greater Geraldton.

**EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATION:****PART A**

That Council by Simple Majority pursuant to Section 5.20 of the Local Government Act 1995 RESOLVES to:

1. RECEIVE the following appended reports:
  - a. Reports – Development and Community Services:
    - i. DCSDD182 - Delegated Determinations and Subdivision Applications for Planning Approval; and
  - b. Reports – Office of the CEO:
    - i. CEO095 - WALGA State Council Agenda – 6 July 2022

**PART B**

That Council by Simple Majority, pursuant to Regulation 13 of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996 RESOLVES to:

1. RECEIVE the following appended reports:
  - a. Reports – Corporate and Commercial Services:
    - i. CCS701 – Confidential Report – List of Accounts Paid Under Delegation - May 2022.

**PROPONENT:**

The proponent is the City of Greater Geraldton.

**BACKGROUND:**

Information and items for noting or receiving (i.e. periodic reports, minutes of other meetings) are to be included in an appendix attached to the Council agenda.

Any reports received under this Agenda are considered received only. Any recommendations or proposals contained within the “Reports (including Minutes) to be Received” are not approved or endorsed by Council in any way. Any outcomes or recommendations requiring Council approval must be presented separately to Council as a Report for consideration at an Ordinary Meeting of Council.

**COMMUNITY, ECONOMY, ENVIRONMENT AND LEADERSHIP ISSUES:****Community:**

There are no adverse community impacts.

**Economy:**

There are no adverse economic impacts.

**Environment:**

There are no adverse environmental impacts.

**Leadership:**

There are no adverse leadership impacts.

*Disclosure of Interest:*

No Officer involved in the preparation of this report has a declarable interest in this matter.

**RELEVANT PRECEDENTS:**

Reports to be received by Council at each Ordinary Meeting of Council.

**COMMUNITY/COUNCILLOR CONSULTATION:**

There has been no community/councillor consultation.

**LEGISLATIVE/POLICY IMPLICATIONS:**

There are no legislative or policy implications.

**FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:**

There are no financial or resource implications.

**INTEGRATED PLANNING LINKS:**

<b>Strategic Leadership</b>	<b>Direction:</b>	<b>Aspiration: A strong local democracy with an engaged community, effective partnerships, visionary leadership and well informed decision-making.</b>
Outcome 4.3		Accountable leadership supported by a skilled and professional workforce

**REGIONAL OUTCOMES:**

There are no impacts to regional outcomes.

**RISK MANAGEMENT:**

There are no risks to be considered.

**ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED BY CITY OFFICERS:**

No alternative options were considered by City Officers.



**13 MOTIONS BY MEMBERS OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN****14 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF WHICH DUE NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN****15 NEW BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE INTRODUCED BY DECISION OF THE MEETING****16 MEETING CLOSED TO PUBLIC**

Pursuant to Section 5.2 (i) of the Meeting Procedures Local Law February 2011, please note this part of the meeting *may* need to be closed to the public, *if* confidential discussion is required.

*Livestreaming will be turned off if required.*

<b>CCS702 RFT 2223 05 BULLDOZER WET HIRE FOR GRAVEL PITS</b>
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<b>AGENDA REFERENCE:</b>	<b>D-22-068108</b>
<b>AUTHOR:</b>	<b>C Bryant, Coordinator Procurement, B Pearce, Manager Corporate Compliance and Safety</b>
<b>EXECUTIVE:</b>	<b>P Radalj, Director Corporate and Commercial Services</b>
<b>DATE OF REPORT:</b>	<b>31 May 2022</b>
<b>FILE REFERENCE:</b>	<b>FM/25/0259</b>
<b>ATTACHMENTS:</b>	<b>Yes (x1) Confidential Confidential – RFT 2223 05 Evaluation Report</b>

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval to award tender RFT 2223 05 Bulldozer Wet Hire for Gravel Pits to the preferred tenderer.

The contract is to run for a period of two years for delivery of budgeted bulldozer wet hire for gravel pits.

The initial contract will be in place from 11 July 2022 to 10 July 2024 with the option for a one year extension exercisable at the discretion of the Principal.

**EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council by Simple Majority pursuant to Section 5.20 of the Local Government Act 1995 RESOLVES to:

1. AWARD the contract RFT 2223 05 Bulldozer Wet Hire for Gravel Pits to the preferred tenderer; and
2. RECORD the estimated annual contract value in the minutes.

**PROPONENT:**

The proponent is the City of Greater Geraldton.

**BACKGROUND:**

The tender RFT 2223 05 Bulldozer Wet Hire for Gravel Pits (RFT) was advertised in The West Australian on 19 March 2022, in the Geraldton Guardian on 18 March 2022, and the City's TenderLink e-Tendering Portal. The RFT closed on 11 April 2022.

Twelve suppliers registered to receive copies of the tender and six submissions were received. Two tenderers submitted alternative submissions in addition to their conforming submissions. These alternative submissions were also evaluated, giving a total of eight submissions progressing through to be evaluated. The tender assessment was undertaken by a panel of five Officers with three voting and two non-voting.

The RFT has a two year duration commencing from the date of award and has a one year extension option at the absolute discretion of the City. The

City has adopted a two year supply contract period for a variety of goods and services used in the maintenance programs.

There has previously been multiple short term minor contracts via Request for Quote (RFQ) in place for Bulldozer Wet Hire for Gravel Pits. The latest being under WALGA Panel RFQ VP247679 Wet Hire – Bulldozer for Gravel Pits 2021-2022.

The gravel that is pushed up in the gravel pits is used for unsealed road renewals and maintenance works.

### **COMMUNITY, ECONOMY, ENVIRONMENT AND LEADERSHIP ISSUES:**

#### **Community:**

Well maintained unsealed roads reduces the likelihood of accidents or injury caused to members of the public and property.

#### **Economy:**

Award of this tender will result in City funds flowing into the local economy through the employment of local community members, supporting local businesses.

A two year service contract also allows the Maintenance Operations team to carry out unsealed road renewals and maintenance works from a proven supplier with planned costs.

#### **Environment:**

All proposed bulldozer wet hire for gravel pits works will be undertaken with care for the environment in mind. Tenderers were asked to provide evidence of environmentally sustainable practices in their tender submission.

#### **Leadership:**

Successful tenderers are required to provide a comprehensive Safety Management Plan with works monitored by the City through Key Performance Indicator (KPI) checklists and safety management audits.

#### *Disclosure of Interest:*

No Officer involved in the preparation of this report has a declarable interest in this matter.

### **RELEVANT PRECEDENTS:**

As detailed above, these specific works have not been previously tendered. However, there are City precedents for procurement processes approaching tender threshold to be assessed and issued as public requests for tender. Such an example are the recent RFT 2122 14 Pump Servicing & Maintenance (Item No. CCS686) and RFT 2021 22 Supply of Plumbing Maintenance Services.

### **COMMUNITY/COUNCILLOR CONSULTATION:**

Community and Councillor consultation does not occur with the award of the two year supply contracts for essential services. Consultation relating to these activities takes place when Council confirms the annual budget for such essential services.

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**LEGISLATIVE/POLICY IMPLICATIONS:**

The Local Government Act 1995 and Council Policy 4.9 Procurement of Goods and Services were observed when preparing and recommending the award of this tender. Safe work methods and environmental management in line with legislative requirements will be observed as part of the delivery of the contract.

**FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:**

The approximate expenditure on bulldozer wet hire for gravel pits is \$218,000 (excluding GST) per annum. Assuming all extension periods are exercised, the estimated total contract value over three years is \$654,000 (excluding GST). These funds are sourced from the Maintenance Operations budget.

**INTEGRATED PLANNING LINKS:**

<b>Strategic Direction: Community</b>	<b>Aspiration: Our Culture and heritage is recognised and celebrated. We are creative and resilient. We can all reach our full potential.</b>
Outcome 1.4	Community safety, health and well-being is paramount.
<b>Strategic Direction: Economy</b>	<b>Aspiration: A healthy thriving and resilient economy that provides opportunities for all whilst protecting the environment and enhancing our social and cultural fabric.</b>
Outcome 2.1	Local business is empowered and supported.
<b>Strategic Direction: Environment</b>	<b>Aspiration: Our natural environment has a voice at the table in all our decisions. We are a leader in environmental sustainability.</b>
Outcome 3.1	A City that is planned, managed and maintained to provide for environmental and community well-being.

**REGIONAL OUTCOMES:**

This contract will facilitate well maintained unsealed roads throughout the City of Greater Geraldton district, which enhances the comfort and safety of the community.

**RISK MANAGEMENT:**

The works carried out under this contract will allow unsealed roads throughout the City of Greater Geraldton district to be well maintained, reducing the likelihood of accidents or injury caused to members of the public and property. In addition the successful tenderer shall have documented management plans in place to ensure the safety and protection of workers and the community in relation to these works.

**ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED BY CITY OFFICERS:**

The following options were considered by City Officers:

This RFT was called to ensure compliance with the Legislative procurement requirements of the Local Government Act 1995. The following alternatives were considered in the procurement planning phase prior to calling this tender:

1. Continue to conduct yearly Requests for Quotation and create short term minor contracts for bulldozer wet hire for gravel pits. This option is not supported due to the volume of administrative effort this would require, and the potential to have higher costs through many smaller purchases.

**17 CLOSURE**

## **APPENDIX 1 – ATTACHMENTS AND REPORTS TO BE RECEIVED**

Attachments and Reports to be Received are available on the City of Greater Geraldton website at: <https://www.cgg.wa.gov.au/council-meetings/>