



# SHIRE OF MERREDIN

19 May 2015

Minutes of Ordinary Council Meeting

Held in Council Chambers  
Corner King & Barrack Street's, Merredin



### Common Acronyms Used in this Document

WEROC	Wheatbelt East Regional Organisation of Councils
GECZ	Great Eastern Country Zone
WALGA	Western Australian Local Government Association
CEACA	Central East Aged Care Alliance
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
DCEO	Deputy CEO
EMDS	Executive Manager of Development Services
EMES	Executive Manager of Engineering Services
EMCS	Executive Manager of Corporate Services
EA	Executive Assistant to CEO
LPS	Local Planning Scheme
LGIS	Local Government Insurance Services
AMP	Asset Management Plan
LTFP	Long Term Financial Plan
MRC&LC	Merredin Regional Community and Leisure Centre
CWVC	Central Wheatbelt Visitors Centre
UCL	Unallocated Crown Land
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
LHAG	Local Health Advisory Group
NEWROC	North Eastern Wheatbelt Regional Organisation of Councils
LoA	Leave of Absence

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Shire of Merredin  
Ordinary Council Meeting  
Tuesday 19 May 2015



**1. Official Opening**

The Shire President welcomed all those in attendance and declared the meeting open at 3.01pm.

**2. Public Question Time**

Nil

**3. Record of Attendance / Apologies and Leave of Absence**

**Councillors:**

Cr KA Hooper	Shire President
Cr RM Crees	Deputy President
Cr BJ Anderson	
Cr CA Blakers	(from 3.16pm)
Cr JP Flockart	
Cr DN Hayes-Thompson	
Cr MD Willis	
Cr ML Young	

**Staff:**

G Powell	CEO
R McCall	Deputy CEO
J Mitchell	EMDS (until 3.20pm)
V Green	EA to CEO

**Members of the Gallery:** Nil

**Apologies:** S Lowe, Media & Communications Officer

**Approved Leave of Absence:** Nil

**Absent:** Cr Trent Thomas

**4. Disclosure of Interest**

Nil

**5. Applications for Leave of Absence**

Nil

**6. Petitions and Presentations**

Nil

<b>7.</b>	<b>Confirmation of Minutes of the Previous Meeting</b>
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7.1 Ordinary Council Meeting held on 21 April 2015

[Attachment 7.1A](#)

<b>Officer's Recommendation / Resolution</b>
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**Moved:** Cr Young

**Seconded:** Cr Willis

**81559 That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 21 April 2015 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.**

**CARRIED 7/0**

<b>8.</b>	<b>Announcements by the Person Presiding without discussion</b>
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The President thanked the students and staff from St Mary's School who made various presentations to Council during Briefing Session on their school project, "The Future of Merredin". It was obvious that a lot of time and effort went into the students' work and Council appreciated their efforts. It was noted that the presentations provided a good opportunity for our young community members to share their ideas with Council.

The President also thanked Rochelle Willis for the provision of a delicious morning tea and lunch, which was greatly enjoyed by Councillors and staff.

<b>9.</b>	<b>Matters for which the Meeting may be closed to the public</b>
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Nil

<b>10.</b>	<b>Receipt of Minutes of Committee Meetings</b>
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10.1 Bush Fire Brigades AGM held on 19 March 2015

[Attachment 10.1A](#)

10.2 WEROC Council Meeting held on 22 April 2015

[Attachment 10.2A](#)

10.3 CEACA Meeting held on 22 April 2015

[Attachment 10.3A](#)

<b>Officer's Recommendation / Resolution</b>
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**Moved:** Cr Hayes-Thompson

**Seconded:** Cr Anderson

**81560 That the minutes of the Bush Fire Brigades Annual General Meeting held on 19 March 2015, the Wheatbelt East Regional Organisation of Councils Council Meeting held on 22 April 2015 and the Central East Aged Care Alliance Meeting held on 22 April 2015 be received.**

**CARRIED 7/0**

<b>11.</b>	<b>Recommendations from Committee Meetings for Council consideration</b>
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Nil

**12. Officer's Reports - Development Services**

**12.1 Shire of Merredin 2015–2020 Access and Inclusion Plan - Review**

## Development Services



<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Executive Manager Development Services
<b>Author:</b>	John Mitchell
<b>Legislation:</b>	Disability Services Act 1993
<b>File Reference:</b>	AIP 2015-2020
<b>Disclosure of Interest:</b>	Nil
<b>Attachments:</b>	Draft AIP – 2015–2020
<b>Maps / Diagrams:</b>	Nil

### Purpose of Report

Executive Decision                       Legislative Requirement

### Background

Pursuant to the provisions of the Disability Services Act 1993 local government is required to review the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan which is now called an Access and Inclusion Plan (AIP).

### Comment

The draft AIP has been reviewed by Senior Management and is recommended for adoption for advertising purposes as required by the legislation ([Attachment 12.1A](#)).

The process requires the AIP be advertised for a period of time and calls for submissions to be made. In addition the AIP should be provided to interest groups such as the Senior Citizens Centre and the local Hospital. The AIP also requires input from the Disability Services Commission.

### Policy Implications

Nil

### Statutory Implications

It is a requirement of the 2004 Regulations that at a minimum the plan is advertised in a newspaper circulating within the region for a period of not less than 4 weeks. Advertising may include website access and direct contact with other organisations.

For the purpose of this exercise it is suggested that the following process be followed:

1. an advert be placed in the West Australian advertising for submissions with a closing date six weeks after the advert appears;
2. a copy of the plan is placed on Council's website;
3. a copy is supplied to the local Senior Citizens group for comment; and
4. a notice is placed in the monthly newsletter for circulation.

At the completion of the advertising period the AIP will be presented to Council for consideration and adoption.

### Strategic Implications

Service Area: 5.5 Administration

Activities: Records Management – retain relevant information and appropriately dispose of dated information

Link to Vision: Developing

Link to Strategic Priorities: Civic Leadership

Service Level: Records maintained in accordance with legislated requirements

Service Level Change: no service level change

### Sustainability Implications

- Asset Management Plan

Nil

- Long Term Financial Plan

Nil

- Workforce Plan

Nil

### Financial Implications

Advertising costs of \$750 are expected.

### Voting Requirements



Simple Majority



Absolute Majority



**Officer's Recommendation / Resolution**

**Moved:** Cr Crees

**Seconded:** Cr Young

**81561** That the draft Shire of Merredin 2015-2020 Access and Inclusion Plan be advertised for public comment as required by the Disability Services Regulations 2004 and be referred to Council at the completion of the advertising period for further consideration.

**CARRIED 7/0**

Councillor Blakers entered the meeting at 3.16pm.

**12.2 Crown Land Lease Reserve 27001, Lot 1117 Woolgar Avenue, Merredin – Lions Club – Lease Renewal**

## Development Services



<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Executive Manager Development Services
<b>Author:</b>	John Mitchell
<b>Legislation:</b>	Local Government Act 1995; Land Administration Act 1997
<b>File Reference:</b>	Reserve 27001; Lease Files
<b>Disclosure of Interest:</b>	Nil
<b>Attachments:</b>	Nil
<b>Maps / Diagrams:</b>	Nil

### Purpose of Report



Executive Decision



Legislative Requirement

### Background

The lease of Reserve 27001, Lot 1117 Woolgar Avenue, Merredin (commonly referred to as the Old Scout Hall) has expired. The Lions Club seeks to renew the lease with a further option of 3 years plus 3 additional years.

### Comment

The lease expired on 2 December 2014 and has an option to renew for a further 2 years to expire on 1 December 2016.

Discussions with Lions Club representatives determined that the majority of works agreed to have been completed including removal of asbestos sheeting and repair and renovation, although the painting and installation of RCDs has not yet occurred.

It was agreed that if the lease was renewed the works would be completed by December 2015 with the RCD's installed immediately.

### Policy Implications

Nil

### Statutory Implications

The lease can be renewed however the agreement of the Minister for Lands is required pursuant to the provisions of the Land Administration Act 1997.

### Strategic Implications

Service Area: 3.4 Property Management

Activities: Nil

Link to Vision: Liveable

Link to Strategic Priorities: Nil

Service Level: Nil

Service Level Change: No service level change

### Sustainability Implications

- Asset Management Plan

Nil

- Long Term Financial Plan

Nil

- Workforce Plan

Nil

### Financial Implications

Council agreed in 2011 to offset the rental payment to complete the works required. The cladding and improvements have been completed including a replacement roof from storms in 2014. Based on 100m<sup>2</sup> the annual rent is \$5,000. The provision of RCD's and painting is estimated at \$5,000. Council may wish to consider offsetting the first years rent of this lease to complete the works with rental costs to commence on 1 December 2015.

### Voting Requirements



Simple Majority



Absolute Majority

### Officer's Recommendation / Resolution

**Moved:** Cr Young

**Seconded:** Cr Anderson

**81562** That the lease of Reserve 27001, Lot 1117 Woolgar Avenue, Merredin (commonly known as the Old Scout Hall) to the Lions Club of Merredin be renewed for a period of 2 years expiring on 1 December 2016, subject to Ministerial approval, with an option for 2 years from 1 December 2016 providing that the works of RCD installation and painting are complete by 1 December 2015 and after that date a rental of \$5,200 per annum be applicable.

**CARRIED 8/0**

J Mitchell, EMDS, left the meeting at 3.20pm and did not return.

**13. Officer's Reports - Engineering Services**

**13.1 Totadgin Hall Road - State Black Spot Funding – Land Resumption**

## Engineering Services



<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Kevin Paust, EMES
<b>Author:</b>	As above
<b>Legislation:</b>	Local Government Act 1995; Land Administration Act 1997
<b>File Reference:</b>	R/10/01
<b>Disclosure of Interest:</b>	Nil
<b>Attachments:</b>	Correspondence from Mr Wayne Vicary to Department of Lands dated 28/2/2015 and the Minister for Lands dated 8/5/2015
<b>Maps / Diagrams:</b>	Nil

### Purpose of Report



Executive Decision



Legislative Requirement

### Background

In 2009/10 the Shire of Merredin applied for State Black Spot Funding following a safety audit on the intersection of Totadgin Hall Road and the York/Merredin Road (M41). The safety audit concluded that the intersection was a potential road safety hazard due to the alignment of Totadgin Hall Road to the York/Merredin Road.

Letters of offer were sent to Mr Wayne Vicary and Mr Mark Smith for the Shire of Merredin to purchase land for the purpose of the realignment of Totadgin Hall Road. Mr Vicary was offered \$8,500 for the purchase of 0.857 hectares on Avon Location 94230 and Mr Smith was offered \$13,000 for the purchase of 1.3113 hectares on Avon Location 19445.

Mr Smith accepted Council's offer but Mr Vicary replied that he would only accept \$30,000 for the loss of his land.

The road construction stalled from 2010/11 until 2014/15 as Council waited for the Water Corporation to realign the Merredin South conduit to the east side of Totadgin Hall Road.

With the works now complete the EMES contacted the Department of Lands and Landgate to obtain an update on the acquisition of land and the Notice of Intent To Take (NOITT) the land at Avon Location 94230 from Mr Vicary. After discussions and correspondence between Department of Lands and the EMES it was found the Department had not completed the application satisfactorily resulting in Landgate not accepting the application.

Subsequently the application from the Department of Lands was resubmitted to Landgate and readvertised for 60 days calling for public submissions. One objection was received from Mr Vicary ([Attachment 13.1A](#)). In Mr Vicary's objection to the Department of Lands he has submitted three proposals:

1. a payment of \$30,000 plus fencing of his property.
2. a land swap between himself and Council, his land for the old road reserve and to retain the part of his property that the new alignment does not require.
3. that he gives Council 1 hectare of his property in exchange for 1 hectare as close to his property as possible at Council's expense.

### Comment

The EMES conducted an onsite visit with Mr Vicary to discuss the 3 options in addition to Council's original proposal of option 4. There are 5 options available to Council:

**Option 1 - Purchase:** The 0.857 hectares (2 acres) of land at \$30,000 plus fencing. The land was valued for Council by Elders on 12 September 2011 at between \$7,000 and \$10,000 maximum. At its September 2011 meeting Council rejected payment of the \$30,000 requested. It is the EMES's opinion that Council's offer of \$8,500 is a fair value for the parcel of land in question.

**Option 2 – Land Swap:** This was the preferred option to both parties and was sent to the Department of Lands who replied stating that once Council had realigned the road the old road reserve returns to Crown Land. For Council to be able to conduct a land swap it would have to purchase the old road reserve from the Crown at a cost that the Department of Lands could not provide.

**Option 3 – Purchase or Swap 1 Hectare:** This option is not feasible as Council does not own a 1 hectare property to carry this option out and would have to purchase land to complete the transaction.

**Option 4 – Compulsory Acquisition:** That Council, through the Minister for Lands, acquire the land through Compulsory Acquisition of Land under the Notice of Intent To Take Land at Avon Location 94230 from Mr Vicary at a cost to Council of \$8,500.

**Option 5 – Relinquish Funding to MRWA:** That Council relinquish the State Black Spot Funds of \$227,542 back to Main Roads WA and reallocate Councils own resources of \$113,771 to another project.

Due to the Department of Lands submission having to be resubmitted and the objection from Mr Vicary, the EMES contacted Main Roads WA regarding the State Black Spot Funding and it has been agreed to carry the funds over to the 2015/16 financial year.

### Policy Implications

Nil

### Statutory Implications

The provisions of the Local Government Act 1995 apply, specifically Section 3.55 Acquisition of Land - a local government can only take land under part 9 of the Land Administration Act 1997 if it is in, or is to be regarded as being included in, its own district.

### Strategic Implications

Service Area: 2.3 Bitumen Road/Drainage Construction and Renewals.

Activities: Road construction and realignment

Link to Vision: Liveable

Link to Strategic Priorities: Key assets - roads

Service Level: Roads constructed in accordance with Council policy and programmes to MRWA standards

Service Level Change: No service level change

### Sustainability Implications

#### ➤ Asset Management Plan

As per Section 6.2.2 Engineering/Works Services

#### ➤ Long Term Financial Plan

This project is jointly funded 2/3 – 1/3 State Black Spot Fund and own resources.

#### ➤ Workforce Plan

An ageing workforce within the road construction crew and without younger skilled employees wanting to join Local Government the reliance on contractors will increase.

### Financial Implications

Unspent funds from the 2014/15 State Blackspot Funding of \$227,542 and \$113,771 of municipal funds will be carried over to the 2015/16 financial year.

Council's contribution may need to be increased to cover cost increases from 2009/10 to 2015/16 as well as the cost of land resumption. This will be addressed in the forthcoming budget.

### Voting Requirements



Simple Majority



Absolute Majority

### Officer's Recommendation / Resolution

**Moved:** Cr Crees

**Seconded:** Cr Young

**81563** That Council, through the Minister for Lands, acquire an area of 0.857 hectares of Avon Location 94230 from Mr Wayne Vicary through Compulsory Acquisition of Land under a Notice of Intent To Take Land at a cost to Council of approximately \$8,500.

**CARRIED 8/0  
ABSOLUTE MAJORITY**

**14. Officer's Reports – Corporate and Community Services**

**14.1 List of Accounts Paid**

**Corporate Services**



<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	David Burt, EMCS
<b>Author:</b>	As above
<b>Legislation:</b>	Local Government Act 1995 and Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996
<b>File Reference:</b>	Nil
<b>Disclosure of Interest:</b>	Nil
<b>Attachments:</b>	List of Accounts Paid
<b>Maps / Diagrams:</b>	Nil

**Purpose of Report**

Executive Decision                       Legislative Requirement

**Background**

The attached List of Accounts Paid ([Attachment 14.1A](#)) during the month of April under Delegated Authority is provided for Council's information.

**Comment**

Nil

**Policy Implications**

As outlined in the Local Government Act 1995 and Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996.

**Statutory Implications**

As outlined in the Local Government Act 1995 and Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996.

**Strategic Implications**

Nil

### Sustainability Implications

- Asset Management Plan

Nil

- Long Term Financial Plan

Nil

- Workforce Plan

Nil

### Financial Implications

All liabilities settled have been in accordance with the Annual Budget provisions. It should be noted that outstanding April Creditors total \$167,995.30 will be paid in May.

### Voting Requirements



Simple Majority



Absolute Majority

### Officer's Recommendation / Resolution

**Moved:** Cr Young

**Seconded:** Cr Willis

**81564** That the schedule of accounts paid as listed, covering cheques, EFT's, bank charges, directly debited payments and wages, as numbered and totalling \$773,034.30 from Council's Municipal Fund Bank Account and \$0 from Council's Trust Account be received.

**CARRIED 8/0**



## 14.2 Monthly Finance Report

### Corporate Services



<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	David Burt, EMCS
<b>Author:</b>	As above
<b>Legislation:</b>	Local Government Act 1995 and Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996
<b>File Reference:</b>	Nil
<b>Disclosure of Interest:</b>	Nil
<b>Attachments:</b>	Monthly Finance Report
<b>Maps / Diagrams:</b>	Nil

#### Purpose of Report

Executive Decision

Legislative Requirement

#### Background

The Monthly Finance Report is attached for Council's information ([Attachment 14.2A](#)).

#### Comment

Revenue and expenditure to 30 April 2015, is consistent with Council's adopted 2014/15 Budget and adopted Budget Review to 28 February 2015.

No material impact to Council's reviewed financial position is envisaged.

#### Policy Implications

As outlined in the Local Government Act 1995 and Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996.

#### Statutory Implications

As outlined in the Local Government Act 1995 and Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996.

### Strategic Implications

Service Area: 5.3 - Governance and Corporate Services  
Activities: Finance and Asset Management  
Link to Vision: Developing  
Link to Strategic Priorities: Civic Leadership  
Service Level: Financial management meets all legislated requirements  
Service Level Change: No service level change

### Sustainability Implications

➤ [Asset Management Plan](#)

Nil

➤ [Long Term Financial Plan](#)

Compliance with the Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996 and to also give Council some direction in regards to its management of finance over an extended period of time.

➤ [Workforce Plan](#)

Nil

### Financial Implications

As outlined in [Attachment 14.2A](#).

### Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Absolute Majority

### Officer's Recommendation / Resolution

**Moved:** Cr Young

**Seconded:** Cr Blakers

**81565** That the Monthly Finance Report for April 2015 be received.

**CARRIED 8/0  
ABSOLUTE MAJORITY**

**14.3 Differential Rates 2015/16**

## Corporate Services



<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Executive Manager of Corporate Services
<b>Author:</b>	David Burt
<b>Legislation:</b>	Local Government Act 1995; Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996
<b>File Reference:</b>	RV/07/01
<b>Disclosure of Interest:</b>	Nil
<b>Attachments:</b>	Nil
<b>Maps / Diagrams:</b>	Nil

### Purpose of Report



Executive Decision



Legislative Requirement

### Background

Local governments are empowered to impose differential general rates subject to compliance with Section 6.33 of the *Local Government Act 1995*.

Differential rating provides Council with flexibility in the level of rates being raised from specifically identified properties or groups of properties within the community. It is common for Councils to base differential rating for properties on Town Planning Scheme zonings however other criteria such as land use may be used.

Once a budget deficiency has been determined, and after taking into consideration the objectives of the Strategic Community Plan and Corporate Business Plan, a rating strategy and proposed differential general rates in the dollar can be determined. Rates should not be increased by a fixed amount without due consideration of the deficiency. Unless the approval of the Minister is given, the amount expected to be raised through all types of local government rates must be within 90% to 110% of the deficiency of the budget (s6.34). This acts to limit the amount that may be raised by rates, but only in proportion to the expenditure requirement determined by the local government, and not in the manner of a set cap on the maximum level of income which can be raised through rates.

Council is required to give local public notice prior to imposing any differential general rates, or any minimum payment applying to a differential rate category, for a minimum of 21 days. Council does, however, have the discretion to vary the rate in the dollar and minimum rate during its budget deliberations without having to re-advertise the changes.

Before local public notice is given, proposed rates should be determined by Council, along with the objects and reasons providing justification for each differential general rate or minimum payment. It is important that these provide sufficient supporting information to electors and ratepayers or local governments may be asked to readvertise by the Minister for Local Government (the Minister).

Utilising the above scenario, Rates Modelling indicates a 7.5% (\$265,090) overall increase in rate revenue compared to the 2014/15 budgeted rate income.

Currently, Differential Rating does not apply to properties utilising Gross Rental Valuations.

The table of Rates (Unimproved Valuations) proposed for the 2015/16 financial year is set out below:

<b>Unimproved Value</b>	<b>Minimum Rate</b>	<b>Rate in \$</b>
UV1 – Rural	\$808	0.0183427
UV2 – Urban Rural	\$1,003	0.024456
UV3 – Mining	\$1,003	0.036684
UV4 - Special Zone Wind Farm	\$1,337	0.036684
UV5 – Special Use Airstrip	\$1,337	0.036684
UV6 – Merredin Power	\$1,003	0.036684

#### **Comment**

For the purpose of Budget discussions, the 2015/16 Budget rates modelling has been calculated using current valuations received from Landgate Valuation Services. It is pertinent to note that new valuations may be received for the 2015/16 financial year for Unimproved Valued properties.

#### **Policy Implications**

Nil

#### **Statutory Implications**

Section 6.33 of the Local Government Act 1995 allows for local governments to differentially rate properties.

### Strategic Implications

Service Area: 5.3 Finance and Asset Management

Activities: Financial Management

Link to Vision: Developing Liveable

Link to Strategic Priorities: Civic Leadership & Key Assets

Service Level: Financial management meets all legislated requirements

Service Level Change: No service level change

### Sustainability Implications

➤ Asset Management Plan

Nil

➤ Long Term Financial Plan

This model is in accordance with Council's adopted Long Term Financial Plan.

➤ Workforce Plan

Nil

### Financial Implications

Adopting the differential model as detailed below will result in rates revenue in accordance with Council's adopted Long Term Financial Plan.

### Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Absolute Majority

### Officer's Recommendation / Resolution

**Moved:** Cr Young

**Seconded:** Cr Willis

**81566**

**That Council:**

- adopt for advertising the following differential rate in the dollar and minimum payments for Unimproved Value rated properties, subject to finalisation of the 2015/16 draft Budget and the establishment of the funding shortfall required from imposition of rates on Gross Rental Value and Unimproved Value rated properties:**

Unimproved Value	Minimum Rate	Rate in \$
UV1 – Rural	\$808	0.0183427
UV2 – Urban Rural	\$1,003	0.024456
UV3 – Mining	\$1,003	0.036684
UV4 - Special Zone Wind Farm	\$1,337	0.036684
UV5 – Special Use Airstrip	\$1,337	0.036684
UV6 – Merredin Power	\$1,003	0.036684

2. in accordance with Section 6.36 of the Local Government Act 1995, advertise its intention to levy differential rates on Unimproved Value properties for the 2015/16 Budget, and advise the public of the availability of the Shire of Merredin's 2015/16 Differential Rating Objects and Reasons.

**CARRIED 8/0  
ABSOLUTE MAJORITY**

**15. Officer's Reports – Administration**

**15.1 Local Government Financial Assistance Grants - Acknowledgement**

## Administration



<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Greg Powell, CEO
<b>Author:</b>	Vanessa Green, EA to CEO
<b>Legislation:</b>	Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995
<b>File Reference:</b>	GR/05/06
<b>Disclosure of Interest:</b>	Nil
<b>Attachments:</b>	Correspondence
<b>Maps / Diagrams:</b>	Nil

### Purpose of Report



Executive Decision



Legislative Requirement

### Background

Following the release of the Budget in May 2014 the Commonwealth announced a freeze in the indexation of the Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs) received by local government until 2017/18. The effect of this freeze on the Shire of Merredin is expected to be in the vicinity of \$635,000 over the next 3 years.

At its June 2014 meeting Council resolved (CMRef 81386):

***“That correspondence be sent to all Western Australian Commonwealth politicians outlining the expected detrimental implications to services within the Shire of Merredin as a result of the indexation freeze of the local government Financial Assistance Grants, requesting a review of the Commonwealth’s decision.”***

Correspondence was subsequently sent, and in some cases responses received, however it can be considered that the request to reverse the freeze has, so far, been unheeded.

Correspondence has been received from the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) requesting local governments around Australia formally acknowledge receipt of the FAGs and promote the positive effect the FAGs have on local infrastructure to the community ([Attachment 15.1A](#)).

### Comment

In the 2014/15 financial year Council will receive \$1,478,774 as General Purpose funds and \$831,654 as General Purpose (Roads) funds through the FAGs totalling \$2,310,428.

The General Purpose funds are similar to rates revenue in that the funds are not allocated to one (or more) specific areas of Council's budget but rather are combined into general revenue to be spread across all areas of operation. Council does, however, expend the full amount of General Purpose (Roads) funds for that purpose across its annual road maintenance program.

To highlight the point made in paragraph 6 of the correspondence, the General Purpose funds of \$1,478,774 (if allocated to a single project or service area included in Council's budget) is double the expected net cost of running the MRC&LC in 2014/15. As another comparison, the expected reduction in FAGs funding of \$635,000 over 3 years equates to approximately two thirds of the net cost of running the MRC&LC for 1 year, or would be able to reseal Nokanning West Road (8.3km) 2.7 times, or alternatively reseal 23km's of roads.

### Policy Implications

Nil

### Statutory Implications

Nil

### Strategic Implications

The freeze on the FAGs will have implications across a number of Service Area's within the Corporate Business Plan, most notably 2.1 through to 2.4 as road services. Depending on the exclusions required to future budgets other areas of the Plan could also be affected.

### Sustainability Implications

#### ➤ Asset Management Plan

The reduction in FAGS funding will have a significant effect on various maintenance and capital services Council could be expected to provide. Decisions on what to exclude or postpone from future budgets as a result of the funding loss will need to be made when adopting future Budgets.

#### ➤ Long Term Financial Plan

The Plan has been adopted using certain assumptions based on the receipt of grant funding. As mentioned in the Plan's Financial Overview, any reduction in external grant funding will have an impact with a possible rise in rates required to fund any shortfall, or alternatively, there will be a decline in service delivery.

#### ➤ Workforce Plan

There could be implications for the workforce should there be a decline in Service Area activity.



### Financial Implications

This report does not consider the exact impacts the reduction in FAGs will have on the Shire of Merredin. The financial implications for promoting the receipt of and importance of the FAGS is minimal and can be undertaken as part of staff's daily duties.

### Voting Requirements



Simple Majority



Absolute Majority

### Officer's Recommendation / Resolution

**Moved:** Cr Blakers

**Seconded:** Cr Willis

**81567**

**That the Shire of Merredin:**

- 1. acknowledges the importance of Federal funding through the Financial Assistance Grants program for the continued delivery of Council's services and infrastructure;**
- 2. acknowledges that Council will receive \$2,310,428 in 2014/15; and**
- 3. will ensure that this Federal funding, and other funding provided by the Federal Government under relevant grant programs, is appropriately identified as Commonwealth grant funding in Council publications, including annual reports.**

**CARRIED 8/0**

## 15.2 Shire of Merredin 2013/14 Annual Report

### Administration



<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Greg Powell, CEO
<b>Author:</b>	Vanessa Green, EA to CEO
<b>Legislation:</b>	Local Government Act 1995
<b>File Reference:</b>	Nil
<b>Disclosure of Interest:</b>	Nil
<b>Attachments:</b>	Annual Report
<b>Maps / Diagrams:</b>	Nil

### Purpose of Report



Executive Decision



Legislative Requirement

### Background

Council's Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2014 have been completed as has the annual audit of the financial statements by Council's auditors, UHY Haines Norton Chartered Accountants. The Annual Report is included in [Attachment 15.2A](#).

### Comment

If the 2013/14 Annual Report is adopted at this meeting, the annual electors meeting, subject to meeting the statutory advertising requirements, can be held on any day after Wednesday 10 June 2015.

Council's Ordinary meeting for June is scheduled to occur on Tuesday 16 June 2015 and, as has been previous practice, it is suggested that the annual electors meeting occur on the evening of this date.

### Policy Implications

Nil

### Statutory Implications

Section 5.27 of the Local Government Act 1995 states that a general meeting of electors is to be held once every financial year on a day selected by the local government but not more than 56 days after the adoption of the annual report.

Section 5.29 of the Local Government Act 1995 states that the CEO is to convene an electors' meeting by giving 14 days local public notice.

### Strategic Implications

Service Area: 5.3 Finance and Asset Management

Activities: Financial Management

Link to Vision: Developing; Liveable

Link to Strategic Priorities: Civic Leadership

Service Level: Financial management meets all legislated requirements

Service Level Change: No service level change

### Sustainability Implications

- Asset Management Plan

Nil

- Long Term Financial Plan

Nil

- Workforce Plan

Nil

### Financial Implications

Nil

### Voting Requirements



Simple Majority



Absolute Majority

### Officer's Recommendation / Resolution

**Moved:** Cr Flockart

**Seconded:** Cr Blakers

**81568**

**That Council:**

1. adopt the Shire of Merredin Annual Report for the 2013/14 financial year and receive the Auditor's Report from UHY Haines Norton Chartered Accountants for the 2013/14 financial year; and
2. hold its Annual General Meeting of Electors on Tuesday 16 June 2015 commencing at 6.00pm in the Council Chambers Administration Centre.

**CARRIED 8/0**

### 15.3 Voting Delegates to 2015 WALGA Annual General Meeting

## Administration



<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Greg Powell, CEO
<b>Author:</b>	Vanessa Green, EA to CEO
<b>Legislation:</b>	Nil
<b>File Reference:</b>	Nil
<b>Disclosure of Interest:</b>	Nil
<b>Attachments:</b>	Nil
<b>Maps / Diagrams:</b>	Nil

### Purpose of Report



Executive Decision



Legislative Requirement

### Background

All Member Councils are entitled to be represented by 2 voting delegates at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of WALGA. The AGM is held during the Local Government Conference in the first week of August 2015.

WALGA have called for registrations for the voting delegates and proxy voting delegates. Only registered delegates or proxy registered delegates are permitted to exercise voting entitlements on behalf of Member Councils.

### Comment

Traditionally the voting delegates for the Shire of Merredin have been the Shire President and Deputy Shire President, who are also both representatives on the WALGA Great Eastern Country Zone.

The program for the Local Government Conference has been released and provided to Councillors under separate cover. Registrations for the event are requested by 30 June 2015. As registrations for the Conference as a whole are yet to be submitted Council may wish to nominate other Councillors as its voting delegates and proxy voting delegates.

### Policy Implications

Nil

### Statutory Implications

Nil

### Strategic Implications

Service Area: Nil

Activities: Nil

Link to Vision: Nil

Link to Strategic Priorities: Nil

Service Level: Nil

Service Level Change: Nil

### Sustainability Implications

➤ Asset Management Plan

Nil

➤ Long Term Financial Plan

Nil

➤ Workforce Plan

Nil

### Financial Implications

Nil

### Voting Requirements



Simple Majority



Absolute Majority

### Officer's Recommendation / Resolution

**Moved:** Cr Flockart

**Seconded:** Cr Young

**81569** That Council nominate Councillor Hooper and Councillor Crees as voting delegates, and Councillor Blakers and Councillor Flockart as proxy voting delegates, at the Annual General Meeting of the WA Local Government Association and submit those registrations accordingly.

**CARRIED 8/0**

<b>16.</b>	<b>Motions of which Previous Notice has been given</b>
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Nil

<b>17.</b>	<b>Questions by Members of which Due Notice has been given</b>
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Nil

<b>18.</b>	<b>Urgent Business Approved by the Person Presiding or by Decision</b>
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Nil

<b>19.</b>	<b>Matters Behind Closed Doors</b>
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Nil

<b>20.</b>	<b>Closure</b>
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There being no further business the President thanked all those in attendance and declared the meeting closed at 3.50pm.