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Minutes for the Ordinary Meeting of Council held in the Shire of Corrigin Council Chambers on
Tuesday 19 July 2011

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- 15 COUNCILLORS REPORTS
- 16 URGENT BUSINESS
- 17 INFORMATION BULLETIN
- 18 WALGA & CENTRAL ZONE MOTIONS
- 19 MEETING CLOSURE

1 DECLARATION OF OPENING

The Chairman Cr Lyn Baker opened the meeting at 3.00pm.

2 ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE

President	L Baker D B Bolt G C Bushell D L Hickey G A Johnson N B Talbot M D Szczecinski
Chief Executive Officer	J P Murphy
Deputy Chief Executive Officer	T L Dayman
Environmental Health Officer	F Buise (3.40pm)
Executive Support Officer	A M Stone

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

G E Downing
J Bowles

3 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no members of the public present.

4 OBITUARIES

It was advised that Eva Beryl Maud Williams and Minnie Bartlett had passed away since the last meeting.

5 GUEST SPEAKERS

Mike Griffiths from World Wildlife Fund (WWF) addressed Council during discussion period on item 10.3.1.

6 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

7 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

(0000) Moved Crs – Bolt and Hickey

That the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 21 June 2011, be confirmed as a true and correct record.

Carried 70

8 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

9 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

9.1 Tidy Towns Committee

(0000) Moved Crs – Johnson and Szczecinski

That the minutes from the Tidy Towns Committee meeting held on 20 June 2011, be received.

Carried 7/0

9.2 Central Wheatbelt Visitors Centre

(0000) Moved Crs – Hickey and Bolt

That the minutes from the Central Wheatbelt Visitors Centre meeting held on 27 July 2011, be received.

Carried 7/0

9.3 Corrigin Senior Citizens Committee

(0000) Moved Crs – Johnson and Talbot

That the minutes from the Corrigin Senior Citizens Committee meeting held on 22 June 2011, be received.

Carried 7/0

9.4 Audit Committee

(0000) Moved Crs – Hickey and Bolt

That the minutes from the Audit Committee meeting held on 21 June 2011, be received.

Carried 7/0

9.5 LEMC

(0000) Moved Crs – Hickey and Szczecinski

That the minutes from the LEMC meeting held on 27 June 2011, be received.

Carried 7/0

9.6 Bush Fire Advisory Committee

(0000) Moved Crs – Talbot and Hickey

That the minutes from the Bush Fire Advisory Committee meeting held on 29 June 2011, be received.

Carried 7/0

CHIEF BUSH FIRE CONTROL OFFICER

(0000) Moved Crs – Szczecinski and Johnson

That Wes Baker is appointed Chief Bush Fire Control Officer for 2011/12.

Carried 7/0

DEPUTY CHIEF FIRE CONTROL OFFICER

(0000) Moved Crs – Szczecinski and Johnson

That Greg Evans is appointed Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer for 2011/12.

Carried 7/0

BUSH FIRE CONTROL OFFICERS

(0000) Moved Crs – Szczecinski and Johnson

That the following persons are appointed as Bush Fire Control Officers for 2011/12:

Bilbarin Brigade

<i>Sadow Jacobs</i>	<i>PO Box 37, Corrigin</i>	<i>9065 2042</i>
<i>David Bolt</i>	<i>PO Box 8, Corrigin</i>	<i>9063 2397</i>
<i>Bruce Mills</i>	<i>Post Office, Corrigin</i>	<i>9062 9012</i>
<i>Steven Bolt</i>	<i>PO Box 226, Corrigin</i>	<i>9065 2043</i>

Bullaring Brigade

<i>Andrew Szczecinski</i>	<i>PO Box 124, Corrigin</i>	<i>9065 7014</i>
<i>Greg Evans</i>	<i>Post Office, Bullaring</i>	<i>9065 7021</i>
<i>Greg Doyle</i>	<i>PO Box 109, Corrigin</i>	<i>9880 9048</i>
<i>Craig Jespersen</i>	<i>PO Box 18, Yealering</i>	<i>9888 7075</i>
<i>Charlie Bell</i>	<i>PO Box 177, Corrigin</i>	<i>9063 2546</i>

Bulyee Brigade

<i>Wes Baker</i>	<i>PO Box 39, Corrigin</i>	<i>9065 8034</i>
<i>Ray Hathaway</i>	<i>PO Box 90, Brookton</i>	<i>9642 7045</i>
<i>Clive Turner</i>	<i>PO Box 55, Corrigin</i>	<i>9065 8024</i>

Corrigin East Brigade

<i>Phil Pontifex</i>	<i>Post Office, Corrigin</i>	<i>9063 2250</i>
<i>Tim George</i>	<i>PO Box 159, Corrigin</i>	<i>9065 5045</i>

Central Brigade

<i>Don Stevens</i>	<i>PO Box 97, Corrigin</i>	<i>9063 2286</i>
<i>Julian Murphy</i>	<i>PO Box 221, Corrigin</i>	<i>9063 2203</i>
<i>Adam Rendell</i>	<i>PO Box 200, Corrigin</i>	<i>9063 2291</i>

Gorge Rock Brigade

<i>Bryce Nicholls</i>	<i>PO Box 71, Corrigin</i>	<i>9063 7014</i>
<i>Bruce Talbot</i>	<i>PO Box 75, Corrigin</i>	<i>9063 2132</i>

Kunjin Brigade

<i>Tony Guinness</i>	<i>PO Box 35, Corrigin</i>	<i>9065 7079</i>
<i>John Hewett</i>	<i>PO Box 239, Corrigin</i>	<i>9063 2480</i>

Carried 7/0

FIRE WEATHER OFFICERS

(0000) Moved Crs – Szczecinski and Johnson

That the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer, Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer and Sadow Jacobs are appointed as Fire Weather Officers for 2011/12.

Carried 7/0

HARVEST BAN OFFICERS

(0000) Moved Crs – Szczecinski and Johnson

That Julian Murphy, Taryn Dayman, Adam Rendell, Peter Rendell (if Adam Rendell unavailable), Sandow Jacobs, Steve Bolt (if Sandow Jacobs unavailable), Paul Baker, Andrew Szczecinski (if Paul Baker unavailable), Ray Hathaway, Clive Turner (if Ray Hathaway unavailable) and Wes Baker are appointed as authorised Harvest Ban Officers for 2011/12.

Carried 7/0

TRAINING OFFICER

(0000) Moved Crs – Szczecinski and Johnson

That David Bolt is appointed as training Officer for 2011/12.

Carried 7/0

DUAL FIRE CONTROL OFFICERS

(0000) Moved Crs – Szczecinski and Johnson

That the following people are appointed as Dual Fire Control Officers for 2011/12:

Dual Fire Control Officers

<i>Quairading Shire</i>	<i>Bruce Mills, Ray Hathaway</i>
<i>Wickepin Shire</i>	<i>Craig Jespersen & Greg Doyle</i>
<i>Bruce Rock Shire</i>	<i>Sandow Jacobs & Tim George</i>
<i>Narembeen Shire</i>	<i>Phil Pontifex & Tim George</i>
<i>Kondinin Shire</i>	<i>Bruce Talbot & Phil Pontifex</i>
<i>Kulin Shire</i>	<i>Greg Doyle & Bryce Nicholls</i>
<i>Pingelly Shire</i>	<i>Greg Evans, Wes Baker</i>
<i>Brookton Shire</i>	<i>Ray Hathaway, Wes Baker</i>

Carried 7/0

(0000) Moved Crs - Bolt and Johnson

That Council:

- 1. Acknowledges the resignation of Allen Price as Bush Fire Control Officer; and*
- 2. Expresses its sincere thanks to Allen Price for his 45 years of service as a Bush Fire Control Officer.*

Carried 7/0

10 MATTERS REQUIRING A COUNCIL DECISION

10.1 Finance & Administration Reports

10.1.1 COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTRE REPORT

Applicant: Shire of Corrigin Location: Shire of Corrigin Date: 19 July 2011 Reporting Officer: Heather Ives, Corrigin CRC Coordinator Disclosure of Interest: No interest to disclose File Number: CMS/005/03
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COMMENT

1. JUNE 2011 Advertising:

'The Windmill' Newspaper (*13/6/2011 Edition - 1pg*):

- 'Corrigin Parenting Day' 6/7/11 event details
- Corrigin Phonebook Updating - *New Businesses*
- Medicare Aust. Access Booth Closure – *Tony Crook Media Release*

The Windmill' Newspaper (*27/6/2011 Edition - 1pg*):

- 'Corrigin Parenting Day' 6/7/11 event details

E'News:

- 'Corrigin Parenting Day' 6/7/11 event details
- Corrigin Movie Club – *June date reminder & movie selection*

Corrigin CRC Website (*"Training, Workshops & Latest Events"*) www.corrigin.crc.net.au

- 'Corrigin Parenting Day' 6/7/11 event details
- Corrigin Movie Club – June

2. JUNE 2011 Room Bookings:

Conference Room	7
Professional Office	3
Video Conference Room	0
Computer Training Room	2
Exam Supervisions	0

3. JUNE 2011 Courses / Workshops / Training / Information Seminars/Meetings:

Corrigin Movie Club (JUNE) <i>"Made in Dagenham"</i>	12 people
<i>'How to take a Better Digital Photo'</i> Class	9 participants
<i>'Editing Digital Photos'</i> Class	10 participants
<i>'Managing & Filing Photos on Your PC'</i> Class	10 participants
Aust. Bureau of Statistics – Collector Training	15 participants
Dept. of Ag & Food - Meeting	30 participants
Tony Crook MP – Corrigin Meetings	7 people

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Tuesday 19 July 2011

Corrigin Tidy Town - Meeting	10 people
Central AgCare Meeting	10 people
Bushfire Advisory Meeting	8 people
Skill Hire - Employment Agency	17 appointments
Community First - Employment Agency	7 appointments

General Business:

- Ngala / Corrigin CRC Partnership Pilot Project - *'Corrigin Parenting Day' Progress Report:*
 - *Event promoted via email networks and advertising material distributed and displayed*
 - *P&C Association Catering confirmed*
 - *Creche Carers x 3 confirmed (CDHS EA's) and qualification requirements checked*
 - *Ngala Workshops & Creche Service Registrations received*
 - *'Parenting Show Bags' assembled x 40 (product samples + information)*
 - *Presenters & Participants - Event Reminder and details emailed out*

4. CORRIGIN CRC Monthly Usage: June 2011

CUSTOMERS ACCESSING 'FEE FOR SERVICE' & SALES <i>June 2011:</i>					
COMPUTER ROOM	MTHLY	YTD	HIRE	MTHLY	YTD
Internet Use	89	920	Room Hire (payments)	5	54
Computer Use	2	21	Data Projector Hire	1	19
Wireless Hotspot	1	10	Laptop Hire	-	1
SERVICES			Folding Machine Hire	-	0
B&W Printing / Photocopies	58	414	Portable Projector Screen Hire	1	14
Colour Printing / Photocopies	15	120	White Boards Hire	-	2
Photo Printing	4	29	Portable Pin-Up Board Hire	-	0
Laminating	3	34	Engraver Hire	-	0
Faxing	18	158	NLIS Wand Hire	-	0
Binding	1	18	SALES		
Secretarial Services	9	84	Phonebook Sales	50	396
Scanning	-	8	Birds of the W/belt Book Sales	-	8
Desktop Publishing	-	0	Map Book Sales	1	1
Westlink Broadcast (View / Record)	-	2	Corrigin Book Sales	-	11
Computer Training (one-on-one)	-	3	Shire Polo Shirt Sales	1	3
Phone Calls	-	5	CD Sales	-	0
FEES			Corrigin Post Card Sales	2	27
Corrigin CRC 2011 Membership	2	17	Corrigin Wrapping Paper Sales	1	11
Corrigin Movie Club Membership	1	15	OTHER		
Training Course (payments)	3	116	Bulyee Cookbook	1	3
University Exam Invigilation	-	2	Yealering Book Sale	-	1
IP Video Conferencing	-	0	Bulyee and Kweda Book Sale	1	2
			Bilbarin Book Sale	-	3
<u>Monthly People through the Door : 272</u>					

CUSTOMERS ACCESSING CORRIGIN CRC SERVICES <i>June 2011:</i>					
SERVICE	MTHLY	YTD	SERVICE	MTHLY	YTD
Phonebook - Enquiries	22	95	Dept. of Veterans' Affairs	0	10
Centrelink	45	650	Courses & Education Enquiries	1	95
Tourism	30	359	General Enquiries	104	1093
Conferences/Training/Meetings	154	1419	Corrigin Toy Library	22	207
Government Info. Access Point	9	57	ATO	-	16
Broadband for Seniors (BFS)	25	173			
Medicare	7	100			
<u><i>Monthly People through the Door :</i></u> 419					

TOTAL: 413 (*Paying Customers and Customer Services provided for May 2011*)

Paying Customer's and Customer Services Yearly Comparison

	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	YEAR TOTAL
2009-10	629	682	626	757	590	727	421	623	715	529	491	539	7,329
2010-11	708	610	871	757	465	530	426	444	611	413	607	691	7,133

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives the Corrigin Community Resource Centre's Report.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

(0000) Moved Crs – Talbot and Hickey

That Council receives the Corrigin Community Resource Centre's Report.

Carried 7/0

10.1.2 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – JUNE 2011

Applicant: Shire of Corrigin Location: Shire of Corrigin Date: 12 July, 2011 Reporting Officer: Karen Dickinson, Finance Officer Disclosure of Interest: No interest to disclose File Number: FM 0036
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BACKGROUND

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

COMMENT

The cheques and EFT payments that have been raised for the Council meeting and also during the month of June 2011 are attached.

After payment of the following cheques and EFT payments, the balance of creditors will be \$NIL

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct policy implications in relation to this item.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Expenditure in accordance with the 2010/2011 Annual Budget.

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Simple Majority

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorse vouchers 19382 to 19393, and EFT Payments in the Municipal Fund, totalling \$784,735.03, Cheques 3271 to 3273 and EFT Payments in the Trust fund totalling \$1,158.30, and EFT Payments in the Licensing account totalling \$61,168.50: Total payments for June \$847,061.83.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

(0000) Moved Crs – Szczecinski and Bolt

That Council endorse vouchers 19382 to 19393, and EFT Payments in the Municipal Fund, totalling \$784,735.03, Cheques 3271 to 3273 and EFT Payments in the Trust fund totalling \$1,158.30, and EFT Payments in the Licensing account totalling \$61,168.50: Total payments for June \$847,061.83.

Carried 7/0

10.1.3 MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT – JUNE 2011

Applicant: Shire of Corrigin Location: Shire of Corrigin Date: 13 July 2011 Reporting Officer: Taryn Dayman, Deputy Chief Executive Officer Disclosure of Interest: No interest to disclose File Number: FM 0036

BACKGROUND

The Local Government (Financial Management) Regulation 34 states that a local government must prepare a statement of financial activity reporting on the sources and applications of funds, as set out in the annual budget for the month.

Variances between budgeted and actual expenditure including the required Material Variances (10% with a minimum value of \$10,000 are included in the variance report.

COMMENT

A variance report is included with the monthly financial statements.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct policy implications in relation to this item.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Monthly Statement of Financial Activity.

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Simple Majority

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopts the Statement of Financial Activity for the month ending 30 June 2011, as presented, and note any material variances.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

(0000) Moved Crs – Bolt and Hickey

That Council adopts the Statement of Financial Activity for the month ending 30 June 2011, as presented, and note any material variances.

Carried 7/0

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council closes the meeting to the public to consider the following items regarding the Chief Executive Officer Salary and Contract review.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

(0000) Moved Crs – Szczecinski and Johnson

That Council closes the meeting to the public to consider the following items regarding the Chief Executive Officer Salary and Contract review.

Carried 7/0

Miss Dayman and Mrs Stone left the meeting at 3.26pm

10.1.4 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER SALARY REVIEW

Applicant: Shire of Corrigin
Location: Shire of Corrigin
Date: 14 July 2011
Reporting Officer: Julian Murphy, Chief Executive Officer
Disclosure of Interest: Financial Interest – matters affecting the employment of the CEO
File Number: MURP J

REASON FOR CONFIDENTIALITY

The Chief Executive Officer's Report is confidential in accordance with section 5.23(2)(a) of the Local Government Act because it deals with matters affecting an employee of Council. The Chief Executive Officer's Report has been provided to Council under separate cover.

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Simple Majority

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council authorises an increase in the Chief Executive Officer's salary in accordance with the confidential report of the Chief Executive Officer.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council reopens the meeting to the public.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

(0000) Moved Crs – Szczecinski and Johnson

That Council reopens the meeting to the public.

Cr Szczecinski left the meeting at 3.29pm and returned to the meeting with Miss Dayman and Mrs Stone.

10.1.5 CORRIGIN DENTAL PRACTICE

Applicant: Dr Sitaram Vij Location: Kirkwood Street, Corrigin Date: 14 July 2011 Reporting Officer: Julian Murphy, Chief Executive Officer Disclosure of Interest: No interest to disclose File Number: CP050
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BACKGROUND

At the June 2011 meeting Council considered a request from Dr Sitaram Vij for a reduction in the rental for the Corrigin Dental Surgery and adjoining house.

Dr Vij currently pays \$140 per week rental for both the surgery and the house. Council provides the majority of the equipment to the practice and covers the cost of maintenance to the dental equipment and the buildings etc.

Council granted a 50% reduction in rental for the Corrigin Dental Surgery and house.

The CEO has since met with Dr Vij who advised that he has found another dentist to assist with the provision of services at the Corrigin Dental Practice. Whilst they appreciated the 50% reduction in rent, the new dentist was only prepared to come to Corrigin if no rent was charged for the surgery.

COMMENT

Dr Vij has advised that there has been a reduction in the number of patients visiting the Corrigin Dental Practice resulting in a less profitable and attractive business to any dentist wishing to work there. Free rental is one way for Council to ensure that a dental service is maintained in Corrigin.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

Local Government Act 1995

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

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

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Potential reduction in rental income for the Corrigin Dental Surgery and house.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct strategic implications in relation to this item

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Simple Majority

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council consider granting free rental for the Corrigin Dental Surgery and house.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

(0000) Moved Crs – Szczecinski and Bolt

That Council grant free rental for the Corrigin Dental Surgery and house.

Lost 3 / 4

10.1.6 LAKE YEALERING PROGRESS ASSOCIATION – REQUEST FOR DONATION

Applicant: Yealering Progress Association Location: Yealering Date: 14 July 2011 Reporting Officer: Taryn Dayman, Deputy Chief Executive Officer Disclosure of Interest: No interest to disclose File Number: CR 0010
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BACKGROUND

Correspondence has been received from the Yealering Progress Association requesting Council's consideration on providing financial support towards the building of two rockwall entrance statements in Yealering.

COMMENT

The Yealering Progress Association intends to build two rockwall entrance statements at the east and west boundaries of Yealering, with the cost of the rockwall being \$3600 each plus lettering.

Council has previously included a provision of \$1000 towards the Yealering Progress Association in past annual budgets. This allocation was last utilised in 2007/2008. As a result of the under utilisation the allocated amount it was excluded in the 2010/2011 budget.

Council may want to consider including the amount of \$1000 in the 2011/2012 annual budget for provision of financial support to the Yealering Progress Association.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

Local Government Act 1995

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct policy implications in relation to this item.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Inclusion of \$1000 expenditure in the 2011/2012 annual budget

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct strategic implications in relation to this item

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Simple Majority

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council allocates the amount of \$1000 in the 2011/2012 annual budget to the Yealering Progress Association.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

(0000) Moved Crs – Johnson and Bolt

That Council allocates the amount of \$1000 in the 2011/2012 annual budget to the Yealering Progress Association.

Carried 5/2

Cr Szczecinski left the meeting at 3.40pm and returned to the meeting with the MEHBS, Mr Buise at 3.40pm.

10.2 Health Building & Planning Reports

10.2.1 MEHBS – INFORMATION UPDATE

Applicant: Shire of Corrigin Location: Whole of Shire Date: 12 July 2011 Reporting Officer: Frank Buise, MEHBS Disclosure of Interest: No Interest to Disclose File Number: CM 0007
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BACKGROUND

The following is to update Councillors on various issues within the Health & Building and Town Planning area.

COMMENT

The following information is supplied for Council's information:

Building License's Issued Under Delegated Authority

No building licenses were issued for the period.

Regional Group Meeting – Katanning

The MEHBS attended the Regional Group Meeting in Katanning on 1 July 2011. The meeting was attended by 25 people from various Shires and includes speakers. Topics that were covered included;

New Building Act

There was much discussion on the new Act which has now passed parliament and will be in force either 1 October or 31 October 2011. The date has not yet been set. The regulations made under the Act have not yet been drafted. There are no transitional provisions in the new Act.

Mr Matthew Handcock (JLTA) gave a presentation on the legal requirements of the Building Bill. Mr Handcock was dumbfounded that the bill in its present form had been passed in parliament. He indicated that the bill panders to the builders in WA, with LG being the authority to resolve problems with builders in their areas.

It is still too early to know the implications for LG's, in terms of procedures, Building Surveyors, issuing of building licenses/building permits, and fee structures.

Department of Environment and Conservation

A session was held to discuss the high failure rate of seedlings in areas of landfill sites that were in the process of being rehabilitated. The speaker has indicated that a covering of 2.0metres of clean fill is required to allow for root growth of seedlings and he advises that the tree/seedling roots would not penetrate the buried rubbish.

Department of Health

The new Food Act dominated discussions as to inspection of premises and the annual reporting requirement.

General

As usual general advice, building and health inspection work, tip inspections, including complaints, etc have taken place.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

Various

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct policy implications in relation to this item.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications in relation to this item

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct strategic implications in relation to this item

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Simple Majority

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives the EHO information update.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

(0000) Moved Crs – Hickey and Bolt

That Council receives the EHO information update.

Carried 7/0

10.2.2 WESTERN AUSTRALIAN PLANNING COMMISSION DRAFT WHEATBELT LAND USE PLANNING STRATEGY & RURAL PLANNING POLICIES

Applicant: Shire of Corrigin Location: Shire of Corrigin Date: 13 July 2011 Reporting Officer: Joe Douglas – Consultant Town Planner (Urban & Rural Perspectives) Disclosure of Interest: No interest to disclose File Number: CM0015

BACKGROUND

This report provides details of those matters proposed be raised in a formal written submission to the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) regarding the suitability of the current draft *Wheatbelt Land Use Planning Strategy* and revised draft *State Planning Policy No.2.5* and *Development Control Policy No.3.4* in terms of their potential impact on future land use planning and development in the Shire of Corrigin and the State generally.

The Department of Planning, on behalf of the Western Australia Planning Commission (WAPC), has prepared a draft land use planning strategy for the Wheatbelt region of Western Australia (i.e. the *Wheatbelt Land Use Planning Strategy*) to help guide land use planning decision-making. The proposed new Strategy will form part of the State Planning Framework and will:

- i) Provide a leadership document that guides decision-making in the region;
- ii) Apply State Planning Policy and establish the WAPC policy position on growth and population change and development challenges facing the region;
- iii) Provide a framework for urban growth, rural settlement, environmental protection and rural and regional planning;
- iv) Provide more detailed spatial planning where required in high-growth shires; and
- v) Identify key economic, social and environmental drivers and their likely implications.

The Department of Planning has also undertaken a review of the current State Planning Policy No.2.5 entitled '*Agricultural and Rural Land Use Planning*' and Development Control Policy No.3.4 entitled '*Subdivision of Rural Land*'.

All of these documents are currently the subject of a public advertising process with submissions due to close on the 31st July (i.e. *State Planning Policy No.2.5* & *Development Control Policy No.3.4*) and the 19th August 2011 (i.e. *Wheatbelt Land Use Planning Strategy*).

Given the implications of these documents for future land use planning and development in the Shire of Corrigin, Council recently authorised the Shire administration to prepare a formal written submission to the WAPC regarding their general suitability including details of any points of specific concern.

COMMENT

Urban and Rural Perspectives has completed a comprehensive review of all three draft documents to determine their general suitability and possible implications. The following comments are submitted for Council's consideration prior to formulation and lodgement of a formal written submission to the WAPC.

Wheatbelt Land Use Planning Strategy

1. The preparation and adoption of a proposed Land Use Planning Strategy for the Wheatbelt Region as a whole is considered beneficial and worthwhile given the current lack of regional planning guidance. Furthermore the basic principles and objectives of the new Strategy as stated in the draft document are considered sound and achievable if a solid commitment is made to its future implementation.
2. Notwithstanding the many benefits of having a new Strategy to guide future planning decision-making throughout the Wheatbelt Region, it is recommended that Council not support the Strategy in its current form for the following reasons:
 - i) The document is poorly worded and grammatically incorrect in many parts with scope for significant improvement throughout. It is not therefore considered to be of a standard acceptable for a State government agency such as the Western Australian Planning Commission.
 - ii) The combination of 'Strategies and Actions' under each Regional Planning Principle is considered confusing and should be broken down into separate sections for each (i.e. all proposed 'planning strategies' listed in a standalone section followed by a separate section outlining all of the proposed 'actions'). This proposed breakdown will clarify what the strategies will be and how they will be implemented in terms of specific actions. This approach is consistent with that recommended by the WAPC in its Local Planning Scheme Manual which guides the preparation of local government planning strategies;
 - iii) Some of the wording used to describe a number of proposed 'Strategies and Actions' under each Regional Planning Principle is confusing and are more akin to 'policy statements' rather than those normally used to describe 'Strategies and Actions';
 - iv) The document fails to make reference to or give any indication regarding its expected lifespan and general timeframe for implementation. This is considered a major flaw in terms of the future monitoring of its effectiveness and is a matter that should be addressed prior to its finalisation;
 - v) The document also fails to clearly outline other government agencies role regarding the Strategy's future implementation. Some clear statements in this regard would be highly beneficial; and
 - vi) The WAPC's future proposed 'works program' under each Regional Planning Principle are considered weak and don't have enough regard for the Strategy's general objectives and proposed 'Strategies and Actions'. This is considered to be significant flaw that should be addressed prior to the Strategy's finalisation given that the WAPC will play a pivotal role in its future implementation.

State Planning Policy No.2.5 - Land Use Planning in Rural Areas

1. State Planning Policy No.2.5 is a long established planning policy prepared by the WAPC under Part 3 of the *Planning and Development Act 2005* to guide the future planning and development of all rural and agricultural land in Western Australia.
2. The current version of State Planning Policy No.2.5 entitled '*Agricultural and Rural Land Use Planning*' was gazetted in 2002 following a comprehensive consultative process that began in 1997.
3. Given the demand pressures associated with economic and population growth in Western Australia since gazettal of the current version of State Planning Policy No.2.5 as well as the increased pressure on available rural resources and general decline in the quality and availability of rural land due to natural resource degradation and climate change, the recent review and drafting of a revised version of the policy by the WAPC is considered beneficial and worthwhile.
4. Notwithstanding the need for and potential benefits of the current review of State Planning Policy No.2.5, it is recommended that Council not support the revised draft version of the policy now entitled '*Land Use Planning in Rural Areas*' for the following reasons:
 - i) The revised document is poorly worded and grammatically incorrect in some parts. It also contains a number of typographic errors, all of which is considered unacceptable for a State government agency such as the Western Australian Planning Commission.
 - ii) The revised document is a significantly condensed, far less prescriptive version of the current policy to the extent that it loses clarity and direction in terms of its history and basis, planning considerations and processes (including consultation), acceptable development standards and mechanisms and responsibilities for implementation.
 - iii) Notwithstanding point i) above, it is acknowledged that the WAPC intends to prepare *Planning Guideline 2.5.1* entitled Land Use Planning in Rural Areas to include some of the details contained in the current policy. Despite the WAPC's intentions, it is disappointing that *Planning Guideline 2.5.1* was not completed and advertised concurrently with the revised policy so that the processes, standards, mechanisms and responsibilities to provide for its implementation could be evaluated now to determine any possible implications. As such it may be appropriate for the WAPC to delay final adoption of the revised policy until *Planning Guideline 2.5.1* is prepared and released for public comment as part of the entire review process rather than the current piecemeal approach.
 - iv) The consultative process followed during formulation of the revised policy is not clearly documented or explained as is the case in the current version of State Planning Policy No.2.5. This raises questions regarding its basis, suitability and general acceptance by those parties directly affected.
 - v) The revised policy states in clause 5.1 that "... land with suitable soils, climate, water (rain or irrigation) and access to services is of State significance and therefore considered to be priority agricultural land". The revised policy does not however provide details of any existing or proposed areas of this type in the State or the processes to be followed to identify them in the future. This is a significant change from the current policy where agricultural areas of State and regional significance are

clearly identified in using maps and specific details regarding processes and responsibilities for their identification in the future are clearly documented.

The revised policy therefore lacks clarity in this regard and could be interpreted and applied quite liberally by the WAPC to the extent that a much greater proportion of the State's rural land will be deemed as 'priority agricultural land'. This may then restrict many landowners' ability to subdivide and/or use their rural land for alternative purposes without such development being suitably planned for in a planning strategy endorsed by the WAPC which is both expensive and time consuming in terms of the approval processes required to be followed.

As such more clarity is needed now in terms of what land the WAPC considers to be 'priority agricultural land' and therefore required to be retained for primary production purposes in the long term future.

- vi) Further to point iii) above it is significant to note that clause 5.3.2 of the revised policy states that tree farming will be supported and encouraged on rural land but should not be permitted on land identified as 'priority agricultural land'. Given the lack of clarity in terms of what land the WAPC considers to be 'priority agricultural land', many rural landowners in the State may not be allowed to establish a tree farm on their property despite their land's suitability and future possible economic and environmental benefits.
- vii) Despite the revised policy's general support for and guidance regarding tree farming, it makes no reference to what is considered to be an acceptable minimum lot size for such land usage and whether or not the WAPC will support the further subdivision of rural land down to the minimum size to help landowners and investors capitalise on future potential opportunities for carbon sequestration.
- viii) Clause 5.2 of the revised policy makes reference to a number of 'principles' proposed to be applied to the future development of rural land in the Perth metropolitan region. Whilst not relevant to the Shire of Corrigin, it is worth noting that the principles stated in the document are not strictly 'planning principles' but are instead observations as to what is likely to happen to rural land in the region in future years. This wording anomaly requires some attention to ensure greater clarity in terms of the planning principles likely be applied by the WAPC and reiterates the previous concerns raised regarding some wording in the revised policy document.
- ix) Clause 5.4 of the revised policy states that all rural land is considered by the WAPC to have productive value for a wide range of existing and future rural land uses and therefore any proposals for rural living-type subdivision and development will not be supported where they conflict with the objectives of the new policy or unless they satisfy all of thirteen (13) individual criterion.

The following criteria are of particular concern:

- The WAPC will only consider rural living proposals which provide for the creation of more than ten (10) rural living type lots where a reticulated domestic water supply service is capable of being provided by a licensed water service provider (e.g. the Water Corporation);
- In those circumstances where a reticulated domestic water supply service cannot be provided to a proposed rural living development, the WAPC may only permit a maximum of 10 lots to be developed without a reticulated water supply and where the alternative method of supply is demonstrated and sustainable and

supported by the relevant water and health agencies. This is considered very restrictive and may stymie opportunity for future rural living development, particularly in areas already zoned for this purpose;

- The lack of clarity as to what constitutes a 'suitable electricity supply' (i.e. will the provision of solar or wind power be supported in new rural living areas as these technologies advance in the future as opposed to conventional reticulated power supply sources?); and
- The need to provide 'community facilities' for new rural living areas without any clear advice or guidance on how this can be demonstrated or achieved.

The revised policy is therefore considered far more restrictive in terms of the permissibility of future rural living-type subdivision and development throughout the State and is a significant shift from the current policy position where there is greater flexibility and clarity.

- x) Clause 5.5 of the revised policy states that the WAPC will manage and improve environmental and cultural attributes of rural land throughout the State by supporting, amongst other things, the inclusion of "*registered Aboriginal sites cultural corridors*" in local planning strategies and schemes. The term "*registered Aboriginal sites cultural corridors*" is unclear and creates uncertainty as it is not one typically used in contemporary planning in this State nor is it referenced or defined anywhere in the policy document. The implications of this new policy measure are also of concern for private landowner's whose property may be affected in terms of limitations/constraints on future subdivision and/or development potential.
- xi) Clause 5.6 of the revised policy states that land use conflicts in rural areas will be managed such that land impacted by '*licensed buffers*' will be recognised appropriately in local planning strategies and schemes endorsed by the WAPC. Whilst the WAPC's intention here is considered reasonable, it is noted that most buffer areas around industrial type land uses that generate external impacts are not typically licensed. As such reference to the term 'licensed buffers' is considered incorrect and confusing.
- xii) The revised policy fails to make reference to or give any indication regarding its expected lifespan and general timeframe for implementation and/or review. This is considered a major flaw in terms of the future monitoring of its effectiveness and is a matter that should be addressed prior to its finalisation.

Unlike the current version of the policy, the revised policy document also fails to clearly outline other government agencies roles and responsibilities regarding the policy's future implementation. Some clear statements in this regard would be highly beneficial.

- xiii) A number of definitions included in clause 6 of the revised policy to help clarify and define many terms used in the revised policy document are poorly worded and could be refined. Furthermore, reference in clause 6 to a number of land use definitions contained in the 'Model Scheme Text' is considered unsatisfactory as it requires readers of the new policy to make direct reference to Appendix B of the *Town Planning Regulations 1967* to obtain details of the relevant definitions. This will prove time consuming and cumbersome and could be avoided altogether by including the relevant definitions in the revised policy document itself.
- xiv) Reference to the terms 'Special Residential' and 'Special Residential Zone' in clause

6 of the revised policy document is considered unnecessary and confusing as it implies that lots ranging in size from 2,000m² to 1 hectare are subject to the provisions and requirements of the new policy. Special residential-type lots are in fact purely residential lots where rural land use and development is typically not permitted. Furthermore all future development of these types of lots is controlled by State Planning Policy 3.1 entitled '*Residential Design Codes (Variation 1)*', Development Control Policy 2.5 entitled '*Special Residential Zones*' as well as provisions normally contained in local planning schemes. As such it is recommended that all reference to the terms 'Special Residential' and 'Special Residential Zone' be deleted from the revised policy document as there is sufficient guidance and controls over this form of development in the State's current planning framework.

Development Control Policy No.3.4 entitled Subdivision of Rural Land

1. Development Control Policy No.3.4 is also a long established planning policy prepared by the WAPC to support the provisions contained in Part 10 of the *Planning and Development Act 2005* as these apply specifically to the future subdivision of all land throughout the State. The policy sets out the principles to be used by the WAPC in determining applications for the subdivision of rural land only and seeks to ensure consistency with the objectives of State Planning Policy No.2.5 entitled '*Land Use Planning in Rural Areas*'.
2. The current version of Development Control Policy No.3.4 was adopted by the WAPC in February 2008 and has been used as the basis for controlling the subdivision of all rural land throughout the State. All local government authorities are required to have due regard for this policy when considering applications for the subdivision of rural land within their respective municipal districts.
3. Given the demand pressures associated with economic and population growth in Western Australia since adoption of the current version of Development Control Policy No.3.4 by the WAPC as well as the increased pressure on available rural resources and general decline in the quality and availability of rural land due to natural resource degradation and climate change, the recent review and drafting of a revised version of the policy by the WAPC is considered beneficial and worthwhile.
4. Notwithstanding the need for and potential benefits of the current review of Development Control Policy No.3.4, it is recommended that Council not support the revised draft version of this policy for the following reasons:
 - i) It makes reference to a number of State planning policies and guidelines in the background section, the titles of which are either incorrect or have recently been changed. Suitable corrections are therefore required.
 - ii) The policy provisions in section 3 of the document which govern the subdivision of rural land for rural living purposes (i.e. lots ranging in size from 1 to 40 hectares) have been modified and expanded to the extent that opportunities for any future rural living subdivision development in areas with an annual rainfall of less than 550mm will not be supported unless they are capable of being served by a reticulated domestic water supply service (i.e. the provision of domestic water supply via roof collection and rainwater tanks as a sole alternative water supply is not considered a viable option and will not therefore be supported by the WAPC). This approach is a lot more

stringent than the current policy requirements where alternative water supply sources may be permitted in areas with an annual rainfall of less than 550mm. This is considered to be a major impediment to future rural living subdivision development in the Shire of Corrigin where Bureau of Meteorology records show the Shire's annual average rainfall as being 376mm.

- iii) Some policy provisions in section 3 of the revised document governing the subdivision of rural land for rural living purposes are also poorly worded and confusing, particularly dot point 4 under clause 3.2 (b) where reference is made to the *"..... allocation of **non-reticulated** scheme water from a licensed water service provider where scheme water is the only alternative source"*. This phrase does not make sense and requires correction or clarification.
- iv) Clause 3.3 of the revised policy now provides guidance on the WAPC's infrastructure requirements and standards for all future rural living subdivision development. The prescribed standards are considered onerous in part, are unclear and do not make allowance for such things as solar or wind power as possible alternative electricity supplies as these technologies advance in the future, firebreaks, telecommunications infrastructure or community facilities. Some modifications to this clause may therefore be appropriate to clarify the WAPC's specific requirements and provide more flexibility.
- v) Clause 4.3 of the revised policy stipulates that broadacre farming areas may be subdivided to create new lots consistent with the prevailing size of other lots used for farming in the locality subject to the new lots having an area greater than 100 hectares. This approach is a lot more stringent than the current policy requirements where further subdivision may be permitted without any minimum lot size restrictions. This revised policy position could prove to be a major impediment to future rural subdivision development in the Shire of Corrigin to accommodate intensive or emerging primary production land uses and is not therefore supported.
- vi) Clause 5.3 of the revised policy stipulates that any new conservation-type lots created under the provisions of the policy should be appropriately zoned by the relevant local government in its local planning scheme by way of a future omnibus amendment or when the scheme is reviewed. The need to rezone these properties is questionable given the range of land use controls required to be imposed at the subdivision development stage. Furthermore it places a significant burden on local government authorities to monitor all such applications to ensure rezoning is undertaken at a later stage. The ability of many local government authorities to adhere to this specific policy requirement is also of concern.
- vii) The policy provisions in clause 5.4 of the document which allow for the subdivision of rural land in the Wheatbelt agricultural policy area to provide for the creation of new homestead-type lots have been modified to the extent that opportunities for this type of subdivision will be limited to rural land comprising an area of at least 101 hectares unless specifically provided for in a local planning strategy endorsed by the WAPC. This approach is again a lot more stringent than the current policy requirements where subdivision may be permitted on smaller rural properties and is considered to be a major impediment to this type of subdivision development in the Shire of Corrigin given that the Shire does not currently have a WAPC endorsed local planning strategy.
- viii) The revised policy introduces incentives for the subdivision of rural land for the

purposes of carbon sequestration which is considered beneficial and worthwhile provided it does not result in the loss of agricultural land for primary production purposes which is a major objective of the WAPC's rural planning strategies and policies.

Notwithstanding this new incentive, the draft policy restricts subdivision for the purposes of carbon sequestration to areas with an annual average rainfall of less than 400mm which may prove overly restrictive and stymie investment in carbon sequestration projects. Furthermore, the revised policy provides no guidance in terms of the total number of lots permitted to be created for this purpose as part any one application, minimum permitted lot sizes, infrastructure requirements and suitable management controls.

- ix) The revised policy introduces provisions for the subdivision of rural land for the purposes of 'Tied Lots' as currently provided for in section 149 of the *Planning and Development Act 2005*. Despite this fact the policy again provides very little guidance in terms of the minimum permitted size of tied lots, the maximum allowable distance between tied lots and the future development and use of these types of lots. Some clear statements in this regard would be highly beneficial and helpful to those rural landowners considering subdivision for this purpose.
- x) There is scope as part of this review of Development Control Policy No.3.4 for the WAPC to consider introducing provisions which allow for the further subdivision of rural land in circumstances where landowners are experiencing financial hardship and it can be demonstrated that further subdivision of their land will not compromise established planning principles.

It is acknowledged that section 241(3) of the *Planning and Development Act 2005* does make allowance for the State Administrative Tribunal to grant approval to further subdivision development in these circumstances and when not more than three (3) lots are proposed to be created.

This current allowance is however considered too restrictive in circumstances where farmers are facing financial hardship due to drought or other factors and does not give the WAPC the discretion to grant approval to further subdivision development in these situations. The revised policy could address this by including a number of relevant provisions to provide the guidance necessary to allow the WAPC to approve further subdivision development in these circumstances.

- xi) The revised policy makes reference to the terms 'Controlled Access Highway' and 'State Roads' in various parts however clear definitions for each of these terms are not provided in Appendix 1. Some clear statements in this regard would be highly beneficial.
- xii) Appendix 4 of the revised policy does not list the Town of Narrogin as being located in the 'Wheatbelt Agricultural Policy Area' and is an omission that needs to be corrected.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

- Planning & Development Act 2005
- Shire of Corrigin Town Planning Scheme No.2

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Any existing or future proposed local planning policies for the Shire of Corrigin are required to

have due regard for and must generally be consistent with the provisions contained in the WAPC's proposed new *State Planning Policy No.2.5* and *Development Control Policy No.3.4*.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The total cost to review the revised draft *Wheatbelt Land Use Planning Strategy*, *State Planning Policy No.2.5* and *Development Control Policy No.3.4* and prepare a follow up submission to the Western Australia Planning Commission is estimated to be in the order of \$1,500.00 excluding GST. It is understood that a suitable allowance has been made in the Shire's budget to accommodate this expenditure.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

Any future proposed local planning strategy for the Shire of Corrigin is required to have due regard for and must generally be consistent with the provisions contained in the WAPC's proposed new *Wheatbelt Land Use Planning Strategy*.

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Simple Majority

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council advise the Western Australian Planning Commission that it does not support the draft Wheatbelt Land Use Planning Strategy, State Planning Policy No.2.5 entitled 'Land Use Planning in Rural Areas' and Development Control Policy No.3.4 entitled Subdivision of Rural Land in their current form for the various reasons cited in the above report and that the documents be modified to reflect the various concerns raised prior to their final adoption by the Commission.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

(0000) Moved Crs – Talbot and Bolt

That Council advise the Western Australian Planning Commission that it does not support the draft Wheatbelt Land Use Planning Strategy, State Planning Policy No.2.5 entitled 'Land Use Planning in Rural Areas' and Development Control Policy No.3.4 entitled Subdivision of Rural Land in their current form for the various reasons cited in the above report and that the documents be modified to reflect the various concerns raised prior to their final adoption by the Commission.

Carried 7/0

10.3 Works & General Purpose Reports

10.3.1 CORRIGIN RESERVE

Applicant: Mike Griffiths, Project Officer-Healthy Bushland, WWF - Australia
Location: Corrigin Reserve, Brookton Hwy
Date: 30 June 2011
Reporting Officer: Heather Talbot, CDO
Disclosure of Interest: No interest to disclose
File Number: PR 0015

BACKGROUND

In October 2008 Corrigin hosted a BioBlitz in the Corrigin Reserve where it was shown to be home to a rich diversity of flora and fauna. Since the BioBlitz a meeting was held with Mike Griffiths, Project Officer Healthy Bushland from WWF, Sandy Turton, Shire of Corrigin NRM at the time, the CEO and representatives of the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) to discuss the possibility of further protection of the Reserve and funding opportunities.

Since this meeting Mike Griffiths and Sandy Turton conducted a full assessment in the field to determine the suitability of protecting the reserve via a Conservation Covenant.

Mike Griffiths has provided the following information on the benefits of creating a covenant over the reserve:

- Conservation Covenants provide long-lasting legal protection for the bushland, well beyond the best intentions of current stakeholders – future stakeholders may not be as thoughtful or have the same values towards the bush and its wildflowers and animals. Covenants are more about future protection rather than protection today.
- A DEC Conservation Covenant automatically adds DEC (via their Covenant Program) as a supporter of the Corrigin (Shire) Reserve, not just the DEC Nature Reserve alongside it. As a DEC covenant, DEC would be legally obliged to provide stewardship support, and have a huge expertise available with respect to reserve management and flora and fauna conservation. It is in the covenanting agency's interest to help protect covenanted bushland.
- A Conservation Covenant provides State and national recognition for bushland otherwise only recognised locally and informally. The Corrigin Reserve is a special patch of bush with a rich diversity of flora (wildflowers) and wildlife (especially birds) as shown by the BioBlitz, and would not be considered for a covenant if it was of low biodiversity value and degraded. It's good for local people to be reminded of the importance of this bushland as well as tourists.
- Covenanting Corrigin Reserve with Wheatbelt NRM's Healthy Bushland project would bring in Federal funding that can be used for eco-tourism improvements and general management in the Reserve or adjacent land, eg weed control, interpretive signs for tourists, revegetation of the old rubbish tip, walk tracks and lookout, etc. An allocation of over \$30,000 is available for this project.
- Current timing is excellent, with DEC having recently inherited the southern portion as a Nature Reserve and expressing support for the Shire in managing its reserve. Meetings have confirmed a mood of collaboration, and placing a Conservation

Covenant over the Shire reserve would show DEC that the Shire is serious about protecting the biodiversity. Also, Wheatbelt NRM and WWF are currently interested in supporting a Conservation Covenant over the reserve, which represents a 4-way collaboration involving the Shire, DEC, Wheatbelt NRM and WWF. Funding situations and organisational priorities always change over time with different governments and programs etc, and it would be a shame to let this opportunity 'go cold' and to lose the synergy. A Conservation Covenant is also value-adding to the community-driven Corrigin BioBlitz of 2008. It would be great to build on the BioBlitz while it is still relatively fresh.

- A Conservation Covenant can be flexible, and would take into account community needs. It's designed to protect biodiversity by working with local stakeholders, not to impose rules and conditions in an impractical way. Its focus is on managing the fauna and flora sustainably. For example, a covenant would fully recognise the needs of the aerodrome and rifle range, and allow passive tourism for people to enjoy the bush and views etc. However it would not allow motorbike riders and off-road vehicles doing burn-outs as they compromise the conservation values of the bush. Covenants also don't change management/ownership of the land – that is totally unchanged. A Covenant is really a set of legally-recognised guidelines that sit on the land's Title without otherwise changing the Title.
- The Quairading Community Nature Reserve (just west of Quairading) has set a precedent in WA for covenanting Shire reserves (in this case, with National Trust rather than DEC). It was a great collaboration with the local community (a management committee), the Quairading Shire and the National Trust. It has been a positive experience and locals are happy about the recognition and extra protection their reserve has been given. It's given their reserve an extra level of recognition.
- Covenants brokered through the Healthy Bushland project are recognised by National Reserve System (NRS) in Canberra
<http://www.environment.gov.au/parks/nrs/about/index.html> . We've been pushing for this for a long time as WA has lagged behind other states, but part of our project's aims was getting covenants recognised federally. It doesn't necessarily change anything much except that it's formal recognition by the Australian Government and improves chances of attracting future Federal funding.

Mike Griffiths has asked to address Council at this meeting as a guest speaker. He will be here at 2.15pm.

COMMENT

Council would be able to attract funding of \$30,000 plus, by agreeing to place a Conservation Covenant over the Corrigin Reserve. These funds can be used for programs in the Reserve that Council has already indicated an interest in, ie the rehabilitation of the old tip site, upgrading of the lookout and ecotourism signs for the wildflower trail. However, the timing of the funds will depend on how quick the overall process can occur it can sometimes take 6 to 12 months. DEC draws up the management guidelines based on the assessment that Mike and Sandy completed and then exchange draft guidelines until all parties are happy with a final version.

A Covenant will protect the reserve from future misuse of the area but does not impose restriction over any of the current uses of the land, that is the rifle range and airstrip. This can only be seen as a benefit to the flora and fauna within the Reserve land. It is completely voluntary for Council to choose this option and to include DEC, however DEC already manage

the Old Water Corporation Reserve that runs alongside the Corrigin Reserve and have expertise and experience in managing similar reserves for the purpose of protecting the biodiversity within.

As part of the process the current Management Orders of the 3 reserves that make up Corrigin Reserve will need to be reviewed and it will be a requirement that the Minister for Lands signs off on the covenant as being consistent with the management orders. The management order for the old tip site needs reviewing as it currently is for a gravel quarry and needs updating to waste disposal transfer station. This will all be part of the covenant process. The cost of the covenant process, that is all legal documents and advice will be covered by Wheatbelt NRM (the project sponsors) so there will be no cost to the Shire.

There is also the possibility of forming a management committee similar to the approach taken by Quairading however this is entirely up to Council and can be decided on when the guidelines are being prepared. In the past Council has had Reserve Management Committees made up of Staff, Councillors and community members.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

Conservation and Land Management Act, 1984
Transfer of Land Act, 1893

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct policy implications in relation to this item.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Funding in 2011/12 Annual Budget.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct strategic implications in relation to this item.

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Simple Majority

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council enters into a Conservation Covenant with the Department of Environment and Conservation for the protection of Corrigin Reserve.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

(0000) Moved Crs – Bolt and Johnson

That Council enters into a Conservation Covenant with the Department of Environment and Conservation for the protection of Corrigin Reserve.

Carried 7/0

Mr Buise left the meeting at 4.23pm.

11 NOTICE OF MOTIONS –

There were no notices of motions.

12 NOTICE OF MOTIONS – NEXT MEETING –

There were no notices of motions for the next meeting.

13 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS REPORT

Swimming Pool

The CEO gave an update on the progress of the Corrigin Hydrotherapy Pool project and advised that the pool tiles have been laid; the heat pump will be installed in next two weeks; and jets, filters, pumps and returns are currently being installed.

14 PRESIDENTS REPORT

Meetings

The President has attended meetings for the following committees: LEMC, Bush Fire Advisory Commission, Grants Commission, RoeROC, Small Business Centre (met the new manager). The President, Cr Szczecinski, CEO & DCEO also met with Mia Davies last week.

15 COUNCILLORS REPORTS

There were no Councillors reports.

16 URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

17 INFORMATION BULLETIN

Cr Bolt

Cr Bolt raised the issue of the towns identified as Super Towns in stage 1. Cr Bolt also noted that Asset Management funding was available

18 WALGA & CENTRAL ZONE MOTIONS

WALGA AGM

Council considered all AGM motions and gave direction to the voting delegates attending the WALGA AGM.

19 MEETING CLOSURE

There being no further business to discuss, the President thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 4.51pm.

President

Date