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Unconfirmed Minutes

GVROC Council Meeting

Friday 31st January 2020
In-Person Meeting
Hosted by the Shire of Esperance and held at the
Esperance Bay Yacht Club – Ocean Room
Corner of The Esplanade and Williams Street, Esperance,
commencing at 8.30am – 2:00pm

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GOLDFIELDS VOLUNTARY REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS (GVROC)

An in-person meeting of the GVROC Council was held Friday 31st January 2020 commencing at 8.30 am

AGENDA

1. OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss business related to the activities of the Goldfields Voluntary Regional Organisation of Councils.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Pursuant to the Code of Conduct, Councillors and CEOs must declare to the Chairman any potential conflict of interest they may have in a matter before the Goldfields Voluntary Regional Organisation of Councils as soon as they become aware of it. Councillors, CEOs and Deputies may be directly or indirectly associated with some recommendations of the Goldfields Voluntary Regional Organisation of Councils. If you are affected by these recommendations, please excuse yourself from the meeting and do not participate in deliberations.

NIL

3. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE, APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

3.1 Attendance

Cr Mal Cullen (Chair)	President, Shire of Coolgardie
Mr James Trail	CEO, Shire of Coolgardie
Cr Tracey Rathbone	Deputy Shire President, Shire of Coolgardie
Cr John Bowler	Mayor, City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder
Mr John Walker	CEO, City of Kalgoorlie Boulder
Cr David Grills	Councillor, City of Kalgoorlie Boulder
Cr Laurene Bonza	President, Shire of Dundas
Mr Peter Fitchat	CEO, Shire of Dundas
Cr Ian Mickel	President Shire of Esperance
Mr Matthew Scott	CEO, Shire of Esperance
Cr Shelley Payne	Councillor, Shire of Esperance
Cr Patrick Hill	President, Shire of Laverton
Mr Peter Naylor	CEO, Shire of Laverton
Cr Peter Craig	President, Shire of Leonora
Mr Jim Epis	CEO, Shire of Leonora
Cr Greg Dwyer	President, Shire of Menzies
Mr Peter Money	CEO, Shire of Menzies
Cr Jill Dwyer	Councillor, Shire of Menzies
Cr Keith Dunlop	President, Shire of Ravensthorpe
Mr Gavin Pollock	CEO, Shire of Ravensthorpe
Cr Jim Quadrio	President, Shire of Wiluna
Mr Colin Bastow	CEO, Shire of Wiluna
Cr Timothy Carmody	Councillor, Shire of Wiluna
Mr Kevin Hannagan	CEO, Shire of Ngaanyatjaraku
Cr Basil Parker	Deputy President, Shire of Esperance
Cr Jennifer Obourne	Councillor, Shire of Esperance
Cr Dale Piercey	Councillor, Shire of Esperance

Cr Steve McMullen	Councillor, Shire of Esperance
Cr Jo- Anne O'Donnell	Councillor, Shire of Esperance
Cr Wes Graham	Councillor, Shire of Esperance
Mr Terry Sargent	Director External Services, Shire of Esperance
Mr Shane Burge	Director Corporate Resource, Shire of Esperance
Mr Andrew Mann	Executive Officer, GVROC
Ms Bree Crawley	EA to CEO Shire of Coolgardie (Meeting minute taking)

3.2 Apologies

Cr Shaneane Weldon	Councillor, Shire of Laverton
Cr Ian Goldfinch	Councillor, Shire of Ravensthorpe
Cr Damian McLean	President, Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku

3.3 Guests

Hon David A Templeman MLA	Minister for Local Government; Heritage; Culture & the Arts
Ms Kelly McManus	Principal Policy Adviser, Minister Templeman's Office
Ms Leesa Markussen	Policy Adviser, Minister Templeman's Office
Hon Alannah MacTiernan MLC	Minister for Regional Development; Agriculture and Food; Ports; Minister Assisting the Minister for State Development, Jobs and Trade
Mr Craig Huxtable	Senior Policy Advisor, Minister MacTiernan's Office
Mr Mark Scott	Senior Media Advisor, Minister MacTiernan's Office
Hon. Kyle McGinn MLC	Mining and Pastoral Region
Hon. Darren West MLC	Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Regional Development; Agriculture and Food; Ports; Minister assisting the Minister for State Development, Jobs and Trade
Mr Ralph Addis	Director General, Department Primary Industries & Regional Development
Mr Kris Starcevich	CEO, GEDC
Ms Gail Reynolds-Adamson	Chair, GEDC Board
Dr Ron F Edwards	Chair, State Emergency Management Committee
Mr Malcolm Cronstedt	Deputy Commissioner Strategy and Emergency Management & Executive Officer, State Emergency Management Committee
Ms Lee Jacobson	Chair, Regional Development Australia Goldfields Esperance
Ms Michelle Donaldson	CEO, Goldfields Nullarbor Rangelands Biosecurity Association
Ms Nardia Turner	Electoral Officer, Hon Kyran O'Donnell, MLA, Member for Kalgoorlie
Ms Tori Castledine	Research Officer, Hon Peter Rundle, MLA Member for Roe

3.4 Presenters

Mr Nat James (Southern Star Holdings) and **Mr Gilad Berman** - Establishing a Camel Hub Operation

Mr Marcus Falconer (CEO Australia's - Golden Outback) - Australia's Golden Outback (Tourism)

3.5 WALGA Representatives

Ms Jo Burges	Executive Manager, People and Place
Mr Tony Brown	Executive Manager Governance & Organisational Services
Ms Carol-Anne Bradley	Goldfields-Esperance Road Safety Advisor

3.6 DLGSCI Representatives

Ms Erin Bond	Regional Manager, Goldfields
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4. GUEST SPEAKERS

4.1 Address from Hon David Templeman MLA, Minister for Local Government; Heritage; Culture and The Arts

Minister Templeman addressed the GVROC and touched on the recent Bushfires and Drought, Local Government Reform and the importance of culture and arts to regional communities.

4.2 Address from Hon Alannah MacTiernan MLC, Minister for Regional Development; Agriculture and Food; Ports; Minister Assisting the Minister for State Development, Jobs and Trade

Minister MacTiernan addressed the GVROC and also touched on the recent Bushfires, gave an overview of the drought situation and recent funding allocations from the Federal Government. Also discussed proposed camel hub and other proposals and mentioned the recent Regional Economic Development Grants announced for the Region.

4.3 GVROC Business of relevance discussed with the Ministers

- 4.3.1 Recent Fire Situation in the Region and Bushfire Mitigation Strategies
- 4.3.2 Drought Situation
- 4.3.3 Progress of the Wild Dog fencing programmes in the Esperance - Ravensthorpe area and the Kalgoorlie Pastoral Alliance Cell fencing Project in Kalgoorlie region.

5. PRESENTATIONS

5.1 Establishing a Camel Hub Operation (Producing Camel Milk, Camel Meat and Camel Pet Meat Meal as a solution to the feral camel issues in the region)

Presentation was made by Mr Nat James (Southern Star Holdings) and Mr Gilad Berman - Refer to attached copy of the presentation.

5.2 Australia's Golden Outback – Tourism in the GVROC Region

Presentation was made by Mr Marcus Falconer – CEO Australia's - Golden Outback - Refer to attached copy of the presentation.

6. ELECTION OF GVROC CHAIR/WALGA STATE COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE AND GVROC DEPUTY CHAIR/DEPUTY STATE COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE

Returning Officer:	Mr Andrew Mann, Executive Officer, GVROC
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Date:	31 January 2020
Attachments:	GVROC Call for Nominations & Election for 2020 - Attachments 4 & 5

Background:

Notice was given by the GVROC Executive Officer on 10 January 2020, that at the GVROC Meeting to be held on Friday 31 January 2020 an election would be held for the positions of Chair and Deputy Chair of the GVROC. As the GVROC and the Goldfields Esperance Country Zone of WALGA (GECZ) operate as a single entity these elections are also in respect to the GECZ, i.e. for the positions of WALGA State Council Representative and WALGA Deputy State Council Representative. The term of appointment is for a two-year period ending no later than December 2021.

Nominations for the positions of Chair/ WALGA State Council Representative and Deputy Chair / WALGA Deputy State Council Representative will be announced at the meeting as received through the call for nominations sent on 10 January 2020, which closed at 4pm on 24 January 2020. The election and vote if required will be conducted having regard to the general principles and procedures of the *Local Government Act 1995*.

If only one nomination is received for a position, an election vote will not be required. If multiple nominations are received the procedure for the conduct of this election vote will be as follows:

- Prior to the ballot, nominees (should there be more than one nomination) for each position will be extended the opportunity to provide a two-minute election bid to delegates. Note a nominee must be a Councilor nominated as a Council delegate to the GECZ;
- The ballot will be conducted as a secret ballot;
- Each voting delegate to the GVROC will be entitled to cast one (1) vote in the ballot process, with the "first past the post" method of election being used; and
- The candidate with the greater number of votes will be elected.

In the event of a tie between two candidates a second ballot will be conducted immediately. Should the second ballot also be a tie, lots will be drawn, and the name drawn first will be the successful candidate.

Officer Comment:

Mr Andrew Mann, GVROC Executive Officer announced as the returning officer, at the close of nominations at 4pm on Friday 24 January 2020 for the positions of GVROC Chair / WALGA State Council Representative and GVROC Deputy / Deputy WALGA State Council Representatives, that one nomination for GVROC Chair / WALGA State Council Representative and two nominations for the GVROC Deputy / Deputy WALGA State Council Representative were received as follows:

GVROC Chair / WALGA State Council Representative

Cr Malcolm Cullen – Shire of Coolgardie, Shire President

GVROC Deputy / Deputy WALGA State Council Representative

Cr John Bowler – City Kalgoorlie Boulder, Mayor

Cr Laurene Bonza – Shire of Dundas, Shire President

As there was only one nomination for the Chair of GVROC and WALGA State Council Representative, Cr Malcolm Cullen, no election or vote was required for this position at the GVROC meeting with Malcolm declared by the GVROC to undertake these roles for the next two years until the end of December 2021.

Given there are two nominations for the GVROC Deputy / Deputy WALGA State Council Representative an election and voting process was held as per the above process described in the background section at the GVROC meeting on Friday 31 January 2020 and in accordance with the principles and procedures of the *Local Government Act 1995*.

The outcome of the voting process was 12 votes to Cr Laurene Bonza – Shire of Dundas, Shire President and 6 votes to Cr John Bowler – City Kalgoorlie Boulder, Mayor. On the basis of this vote the GVROC then declared Cr Laurene Bonza to undertake the Deputy roles for the next two years until the end of December 2021.

Cr John Bowler was thanked for his service to the Deputy role for the last two years.

Consultation: GVROC/WALGA

Financial Implications: Nil

Strategic Implications: N/A

Voting Requirement: Simple majority

DECLARATION OF ELECTION RESULT:

The GVROC declared Cr Malcolm Cullen, Shire of Coolgardie President as the GVROC Chair/ WALGA State Council Representative and Cr Laurene Bonza, Shire of Dundas President as Deputy Chair / WALGA Deputy State Council Representative for the two-year period ending no later than December 2021.

7. MINUTES OF MEETINGS

7.1 Minutes of a Meeting of the Goldfields Voluntary Regional Organisation of Councils (GVROC) held 15 November 2019

Minutes of the GVROC Council Meeting held Friday 15 November 2019 are presented for adoption – Attachment 6.

Requested Amendment:

Cr Laurene Bonza, requested that Item 14.2 be amended to correct her moved resolution title from Shire of Coolgardie to Shire of Dundas.

RECOMMENDATION:

That based on the above amendment the Minutes of the GVROC Council Meeting held Friday 15 November 2019 be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

RESOLUTION: Moved: *Cr Laurene Bonza – Shire of Dundas*
Secinded: *Cr Tracey Rathbone – Shire of Coolgardie*

CARRIED

7.2 Matters for Noting

There were no matters presented for noting.

7.3 Correspondence for Noting

There was no correspondence presented for noting.

8. GOLDFIELDS VOLUNTARY REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS FINANCE

8.1 Financial Statement and Accounts paid to 31 December 2019

Reporting Officer: Mr James Trail, Chief Executive Officer Shire Coolgardie

Disclosure of Interest: No interest to disclose

Date: 22nd January 2020

Attachments: Financial Statement and accounts paid to 31 December 2019 - Attachment 7

Background:

Presenting the financial statement for the period 1 October 2019 to 31 December 2019 and the accounts approved for payment for the period 1 October 2019 to 31 December 2019.

Financial Statement:

The Executive Officer provides the following comment:

Note No	Account No	Details
1	575.01	Interest - Interest on funds held by GVROC
2	1513	Executive Officer - Professional Services
3	1846	Cost for Venture Consultants undertaking Minerals Strategy second payment
4	Other	Payment as per GVROC Resolution for equity share in Records Facility

Accounts Paid:

Payment Type	Date	Payee	Details	Amount inc GST		Expense:
EFT	12-Nov-19	Australian Venture Consultants	Professionals Services Provided by R Barnett Related to the Project, Goldfields-Esperance Minerals Industry Strategy, Progress Payment	\$12,650.00	1846	Projects general - Member councils
EFT	12-Nov-19	Mann Advisory	Executive Fees for September	\$7,040.00	1513	Executive Fees
EFT	31-Dec-19	Mann Advisory	Executive Fees for October and November	\$14,080.00	1513	Executive Fees
EFT	31-Dec-19	Shire Ngaanyatjaraku	Payment from GVROC re Records Facility Resolution	\$25,000.00		
				\$58,770.00		
			Total Expenses paid upto 31 December 2019	\$58,770.00		
Transfer	19-Dec-19	Netsaver Account	Transfer to Business Account	\$250,000.00		
Transfer	19-Dec-19	Netsaver Account	Transfer to Business Account	\$29,332.76		
Transfer	19-Dec-19	Business Transaction Account	Transfer from Netsaver Account	-\$250,000.00		
Transfer	19-Dec-19	Business Transaction Account	Transfer from Netsaver Account	-\$29,332.76		

Consultation: Nil

Financial Implications: Funds for the expenditure is included in the 2019/2020 Budget

Strategic Implications: GVROC Strategic Plan 2017-2022 - Objective 3

RECOMMENDATION:

That

1. The Statement of Financial Position for the period 1 October 2019 to 31 December 2019 and the accounts approved for payment for the period 1 October 2019 to 31 December 2019 totalling \$58,770 be endorsed.
2. That the actions taken by the Shire of Coolgardie Chief Executive Officer to pay for GVROC expenses and receipt of GVROC Revenue be endorsed.

RESOLUTION: **Moved: Cr Patrick Hill – Shire of Laverton**
Seconded: Cr Laurene Bonza – Shire of Dundas

CARRIED

9. GVROC - LAW AND ORDER

City of Kalgoorlie Boulder (CKB), Mayor Bowler provided a verbal update for the law an order item following the meeting between the Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku President, Cr Damian McLean and CEO Mr Kevin Hannagan, Mayor Bowler with the Federal Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Hon Ken Wyatt, on the 28 January 2020 to further discuss the issues that were raised at the Canberra visit by the CKB in 2019.

Mayor Bowler advised that the Ngaanyatjarraku people would like the reintroduction of the CDEP as this was proven to be effective when it was implemented last time and that the Cashless Debit Card does not have the same support due to a number of reasons e.g. telecommunications is a huge issue and this causes issues with the ability for cards to be utilised and accepted.

Minister Wyatt has taken this on board and will consider it with his Federal counterparts in Cabinet.

It was also noted that Hon Jacqui Lambie also recently visited several of the GVROC local governments cashless debit card sites in the region to discuss its effectiveness, before the Senate is expected to vote on the trial's extension next month, which could extend the current trial sites past 2021 (refer to Item 12.11 in minutes)

RECOMMENDATION:

That the GVROC Council:

1. Note the verbal update from Mayor Bowler regarding the outcomes from the meeting with the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Hon Ken Wyatt on 28 January 2020.
2. That the GVROC write to Hon Ken Wyatt and Hon Jacqui Lambie thanking them for their visits and time spent understanding the issues and impacts with the various law and order issues being implemented by the Federal Government.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr John Bowler – City of Kalgoorlie Boulder
Seconded: Cr Tracey Rathbone – Shire of Coolgardie

CARRIED

10. DESIGNATED AREA MIGRATION AGREEMENT (DAMA)

Reporting Officer: Mr John Walker, CEO, City of Kalgoorlie Boulder

Disclosure of Interest: Nil

Date: 27 January 2020

Attachments: CKB Goldfields DAMA Update - Attachment 8

Background:

The City of Kalgoorlie Boulder (CKB) is the Designated Area Representative (DAR) for the DAMA in the Goldfields. The CKB has established the systems and processes required to manage the DAMA and it launched the Goldfields DAMA website on 24 June 2019 - www.goldfieldsdama.com.

The CKB started accepting applications on 1 July 2019 and will assess applications within 15 working days. Around 80 people attended the 1st Goldfields DAMA information session in April 2019 and around 50 people attended the 2nd Goldfields DAMA information session & website launch – June 2019.

Year 1 - Key Elements:

- Currently restricted to 72 approved occupations
- Ceilings of 500 approved nominations for TSS/ENS visas
- English language concessions for 28 occupations
- Salary concessions for 4 occupations
- Age concessions – an age limit of 50 years old for a PR pathway through ENS (Subclass 186) visa (note: cannot turned 50 at time of PR nomination)
- Provides a pathway to permanent residency (for skill level 1 to 4 occupations)

To date the CKB has:

- Received over 365 DAMA queries.
- The Goldfields DAR has endorsed 17 businesses, which includes 40 TSS/ENS nominations. By the end of February 2020, there may be up to 50 TSS/ENS nominations endorsed by the Goldfields DAR. See the below table for the occupation breakdown:

Occupations	No. TSS/ENS nominations
Bar Attendant (Supervisor)	2
Chef	5
Child Care Worker	4
Community Worker	1
Driller	4
Drillers Assistant	5
Hotel/Motel Manager	4
Mechanical Engineering Technician	1
Motor Mechanic	3
Retail Manager	4
Sports Development Officer	1
Truck Driver	3
Waiter (Supervisor)	2
Welder	1
Grand Total	40

- 27 October 2019 to 24 January 2020, the Goldfields DAMA Workforce Survey was promoted, and businesses are encouraged to fill the survey, seeking additional information and data of what other occupations are needed for the roll out of the Year 2 Goldfields DAMA program.
- Currently, the Goldfields DAR is preparing the negotiation stage of the Goldfields DAMA year 2 program by drafting a deed of variation and annual report to Minister Alan Tudge.

- The type of occupations may be added in the second-year program includes Café or Restaurant Manager, Cook, Greenkeeper, ICT Customer Support Officer, Rope Access Technician, Hairdressers and many more. The negotiation will be signed and finalised in late-March 2020.

Officers Comments

Since implementing the DAMA, migrants have expressed greater interest in relocation to Goldfields through the DAMA and other pathways. On 16 November 2019, the Kalgoorlie Miner wrote an article detailing the interest migrants from the United Kingdom in relocating to Kalgoorlie-Boulder but have had trouble in finding an employer to sponsor them, despite being highly qualified and experienced in their professions. The article highlighted the plight of one British couple who expressed interests in relocating to Kalgoorlie-Boulder but could not find anyone to sponsor him. Since the publication of the article, DWE Electrical has approached EasyMigrate to get in contact with the man in the article and elected to sponsor and hire him.

Regional Councils from around Australia have also experienced interests in implementing the DAMA in their jurisdiction given the direct and indirect benefit having the DAMA can bring to their region.

Several agencies and services have responded to the interest and opportunity as a result of the additional interest in Kalgoorlie-Boulder generated by the DAMA. Central Regional TAFE is also planning to increase its offering to International Students by providing courses for migrants to study English and improve their literacy in the language.

Agenda for the next 12 months

Collectively the Goldfields DAMA Partners will continue to liaise with businesses to help alleviate labour shortages through the DAMA and other avenues. Increased interests in the DAMA will be achieved through speaking at key events, facilitating workshops, and promoting success stories of the DAMA program. The success stories will highlight the uniqueness of the Goldfields and the warm, inclusive community that has embraced the migrants. Collaborative effort from all DAMA partners will achieve the greater promotion of the DAMA, and the Goldfields region as a whole as a destination to live, work and invest in.

For further details refer to the full DAMA update from the CKB at Attachment 8.

RECOMMENDATION

That the GVROC Council move the motion to adjourn the meeting at 12.22pm for lunch.

RESOLUTION: **Moved: Cr Patrick Hill – Shire of Laverton**
 Seconded: Cr Tracey Rathbone – Shire of Coolgardie

CARRIED

RECOMMENDATION

That the GVROC Council move the motion restart the meeting

RESOLUTION: **Moved: Cr Tracey Rathbone – Shire of Coolgardie**
 Seconded: Cr Peter Craig – Shire of Leonora

CARRIED

RECOMMENDATION:

That the GVROC Council note the DAMA update report and presentation from the CKB.

RESOLUTION: **Moved: Cr Laurene Bonza – Shire of Dundas**
 Seconded: Cr Ian Mickel – Shire of Esperance

CARRIED

11. GVROC STRATEGIC WORKING GROUP**11.1 Minutes from the meeting of the GVROC Strategic Working Group held 15 November 2019**

Minutes of the GVROC Strategic Working Group Meeting held Friday 15 November 2019 are presented for noting and endorsement by the GVROC – Attachment 9.

Requested Amendment:

Cr Laurene Bonza, requested that all resolutions where she is named to be amended to correct her moved resolution title from Shire of Coolgardie to Shire of Dundas.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the GVROC note and endorse with the amendments above the GVROC Strategic Working Group Meeting Minutes held Friday 15 November 2019.

RESOLUTION: **Moved: Cr Patrick Hill – Shire of Laverton**
 Seconded: Cr Tracey Rathbone – Shire of Coolgardie

CARRIED

11.2 GVROC Strategic Working Group Paper - Tax and economic policy settings to reinvigorate communities - A fairer and smarter system for the regions - January 2020

Reporting Officer: Mr Andrew Mann, Executive Officer, GVROC

Disclosure of Interest: Nil

Date: January 2020

Attachments: Tax and economic policy settings to reinvigorate communities - A fairer and smarter system for the regions Paper for the GVROC Strategic Working Group January 2020 - Attachment 10

Background:

At the Meeting of the GVROC Strategic Working Group held 15th November 2020, it was resolved;

RECOMMENDATION:

That GVROC Strategic Working Group:

- 1. prepare a draft paper on possible taxation incentives and benefits for communities in the Goldfields region to be provided to the GVROC at its next meeting on 31 January 2020 in Esperance for consideration.**
- 2. Provide all relevant material and information for input to the paper to the GVROC Executive Officer by the end of November 2019 to allow time for the paper to be drafted.**
- 3. Paper to look at two streams of investigation, State and Federal incentives, which will also be prioritised.**

RESOLUTION: **Moved: Cr Laurene Bonza – Shire of Dundas**
 Seconded: Cr Patrick Hill – Shire of Laverton

Carried

Officer Comment:

Following on from the Federal Government's Productivity Commission's recent study into Remote Area Tax Concessions and Payments this paper was prepared for the GVROC Strategic Working Group to provide further background and a policy perspective and objective for the GVROC to further investigate and pursue in regards to tax and policy settings that could reinvigorate its communities.

Consultation:

GVROC Chair
GVROC Strategic Working Group

Financial Implications:

Still to be determined

Strategic Implications:

GVROC Strategic Plan 2017-2022

RECOMMENDATION:

That the GVROC Council:

1. Note the paper from the Strategic Working Group.
2. As per the paper's recommendations, endorse the Strategic Working Group to undertake further analysis work to develop a GVROC tax and economic policy platform and action plan for use in the upcoming State Government election in the first instance, focussing on areas to lobby the State Government on State policy and tax levers to ensure its communities thrive E.g. Stamp Duty Relief and Payroll tax exemptions for regional and remote communities.
3. Note that this platform and action plan can later be broadened to Federal tax and policy settings (Zone Tax Offsets and FBT), closer to the next Federal Government Election.
4. Note the City of Kalgoorlie Boulder's submission and work undertaken in its response to the Productivity Commission's recent study into Remote Area Tax Concessions and Payments and include with this paper for consideration by the Strategic Working Group's work going forward.
5. The next Strategic Working Group to be held on 20 March 2020 in conjunction with the GVROC meeting scheduled on that day in Norseman.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Patrick Hill – Shire of Laverton
Seconded: Cr Peter Craig – Shire of Leonora

CARRIED

12. GOLDFIELDS VOLUNTARY REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS BUSINESS

12.1 Roads of Strategic Importance (ROSI) – Update Report

Reporting Officers:	Mr Andrew Mann, Executive Officer GVROC
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Date:	January 2020
Attachments:	Roads of Strategic Importance (ROSI) – GVROC Update Paper January 2020 – Attachment 11

Background:

The GVROC Council resolved at the meeting on 15th November 2019;

RECOMMENDATION:

1. request the Executive Officer present a report on the Roads of Strategic Importance project to the GVROC Council Meeting on 31st January 2020
2. request all CEOs to identify and provide to the Executive Officer a list of its key roads to be included in the report by the end of November 2019.

RESOLUTION:

**Moved: Cr Tracey Rathbone – Shire of Coolgardie
Seconded: Cr Laurene Bonza – Shire of Dundas**

CARRIED

Comment:

The GVROC resolved at its meeting in June 2019 that the GVROC CEOs group would work together to identify the top regional road upgrade priorities for the region for submission to the State and Federal Governments for consideration and funding. These identified roads would be grouped under the banner of “Roads of Strategic Importance” (ROSI) project.

At the same meeting concerns were raised about the definition and purpose of ROSI compared to the State Government’s priorities and that this be further investigated prior to the development of individual Council road priorities. Consultation processes proposed by the Commonwealth for funding was also requested to be defined.

This update paper provides a better definition and purpose for the ROSI project, background to the existing Goldfields-Esperance Regional Road Network and the current requirements for State and Commonwealth Government funding towards road infrastructure.

Consultation:	GVROC Council, GVROC CEO Group
Financial Implications:	Funding has been included in the 2019/2020 Budget
Strategic Implications:	GVROC Strategic Plan 2017-2022 Objective 2, Goal 2.1, 2.2
Voting Requirement:	Simple majority

Motion:

A request was made by the Shire of Esperance’s Deputy President, Cr Basil Parker, to introduce as a late item for discussion the Parmango Road bypass option, in light of the recent Eyre highway closures due to the bushfires.

A motion was called for and against regarding this request and a vote held.

Motion For: **Moved: Cr Ian Mickel – Shire of Esperance**
Seconded: Cr Tracey Rathbone – Shire of Coolgardie

Motion Against: **Moved: Cr John Bowler – City of Kalgoorlie Boulder**
Seconded: Mr Peter Fitchat – Shire of Dundas

The majority vote was the motion against, and the motion was lost.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the GVROC:

1. Note this paper.
2. Request the GVROC CEO's to continue to work with the Executive Officer to document and identify key roads to seek funding from either State or Commonwealth Government going into the next election cycles.
3. Use this process to work with Main Roads WA to ensure that all identified key roads are contained in its documentation including the Roads 2030 – Regional Strategies for Significant Roads list and any further updates taken with respect to this report. This should then allow GVROC to lobby the Commonwealth Government for funding, knowing that the State Government has already noted and accepted these roads as significant.
4. Lobby State Government Ministers, Departments and Opposition Parties to look at committing to an annual provision of Royalties for Regions funding into a Goldfields Regional Road Group pool for allocation to each of the GVROC Local Government Authorities to go towards maintenance and upgrades of existing and new local roads.
5. Work with the RAC to assist with their push for upgrading regional roads from a safety perspective and obtaining up to \$100m per annum over nine years from State and Commonwealth Governments to implement this program, with a focus on roads in the Goldfields Esperance Region.

RESOLUTION: **Moved: Tracey Rathbone – Shire of Coolgardie**
Seconded: Patrick Hill – Shire of Laverton

CARRIED

12.2 Culling of Camels – Update Report

Reporting Officer: Mr Andrew Mann, Executive Officer GVROC

Disclosure of Interest: Nil

Date: January 2020

Attachments: Camel Meat Meal Fertilizer Pilot Proposal – Attachment 12
Managing Camels in Dry Times Nov 2019 - Ngaanyatjarra Camel Company – Attachment 13

Background:

During the last few GVROC meetings the issue of dealing with the increased number of Feral Herbivores (including camels) has been discussed. While the current process has been to undertake planned culls, the GVROC is looking at alternative opportunities that could be progressed that actually turn this problem into a solution and a potential new industry for the region. It is estimated that the number of camels is projected to double every 8 to 10 years at a pace of approximately 10% a year, highlighting this growing problem.

Comment:

The GVROC Chair and Executive Officer continue to work with the GEDC, GNRBA, DPIRD and industry stakeholders to further explore areas of opportunity to deal with the problem of the Feral Herbivores (including camels).

The following provides a brief update on progress to date:

A MOU has now been signed between the GVROC and the GNRBA.

The GEDC has developed a short draft proposal outlining the background and proposed undertaking for the Camel Meat Meal Fertilizer Pilot, mentioned at the last GVROC meeting (see Attachment X). Please note that the GEDC does not intend to be the project owner for this pilot, and this will need to be determined as part of the ongoing feasibility work.

The GEDC is discussing with DPIRD regarding the Camel Meat Meal Fertilizer Pilot proposal and investigating potential opportunities for support through some of the Department's Agribusiness programs. The GEDC will continue to update GVROC on these matters which are the responsibility of the DPIRD.

The GVROC Chair and Executive Officer met with Nat James (Southern Star Holdings) and Gilad Berman regarding their proposal to establishing a Camel Hub Operation (Producing Camel Milk, Camel Meat and Camel Pet Meat Meal as a solution to the feral camel issues in the region. This has resulted in the presentation being delivered at this meeting.

Also, of note is a recent article in the Australian Newspaper on 6 January 2020 also highlighted that the South Australian Government in conjunction with leaders of the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands had ordered a camel cull operation of 10,000 head of camel in that State. As of 18 January 2020, it had been reported that over 5,000 camels have been culled.

Similarly, the CEO of the Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku has advised of the work being done in its region by the Ngaanyatjarra Council Aboriginal Corporation (NCAC) and the Ngaanyatjarra Camel Company (NCC), which was established as a business by the NCAC to muster and sell camels. Its work has vastly reduced camel numbers and damage compared to previous droughts. The NCC have gone down the road of commercial mustering rather than culling because it creates ongoing employment for its people. The NCC has removed over 40,000 camels from the region and paid \$2.6m in Anangu Wages, since its commencement in 2012. The NCC removed 6,580 camels from the region in the 2018/2019 financial year. They worked a lot with APY Traditional owners that had a very large influx of camels that needed to be removed to prevent damage to cattle and community infrastructure. Skill sharing between the NCC and the Ranger teams has also been a fabulous outcome. The NCC has done excellent work and is the one of the only small business to set up in the Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku. The NCC do not support culling but the expansion of its mustering operation and would be interested to discuss options with GVROC and any of the interested parties looking at other options for the camels to culling.

Consultation:

Alex Wiese	CKB
Trent Stillman	DBCA
Johannes Pieterse	DBCA
Magdalena Zabek	DPIRD
Regan Brewer	GEDC
Michelle Donaldson	GNRBA
Sharni Foulkes	KBCCI
Deb Barrington	NIAA (PMC)
Jack Carmody	Prenti Downs
Tim Carmody	Prenti Downs
Jo Swan	RDAGE
Beth Walton	Shire of Sandstone
Carol Hodshon	Shire of Sandstone
Harry Hawkins	Shire of Sandstone
Mal Cullen	Shire of Coolgardie
Mia Hicks	Shire of Coolgardie
Peter Fitchat	Shire of Dundas
Laurene Bonza	Shire of Dundas
Patrick Hill	Shire of Laverton
Peter Naylor	Shire of Laverton
Ross Norrie	Shire of Leonora
Linda Gray	Shire of Leonora
Jim Epis	Shire of Leonora
Greg Dwyer	Shire of Menzies
Jim Quadrio	Shire of Wiluna
Colin Bastow	Shire of Wiluna
Kevin Hannagan	Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku
Mike Tucker	Tulahana

Financial Implications: Nil

Strategic Implications: GVROC Strategic Plan 2017-2022
Objective 1, Goal 1.1

Voting Requirement: Simple majority

RECOMMENDATION:

That the GVROC Council;

1. Note the update.
2. Support the GEDC's draft proposal looking at undertaking the Camel Meat Meal Fertilizer Pilot and discuss whether it is prepared to contribute a potential funding contribution towards the development of a pilot business case. The business case will explore the project demand, implementation, management, operational considerations and risks, providing the basis for future funding requests.
3. Note the Camel Hub Proposal and presentation provided at the meeting by Nat James and Gilad Berman and consider the request for GVROC funding towards a comprehensive feasibility study.
4. Engage with the Ngaanyatjarra Council Aboriginal Corporation and the Ngaanyatjarra Camel Company to discuss about the potential business opportunities for removing the camels in the region through their existing mustering operations and links to abattoir and markets for the end products.

RESOLUTION: **Moved: Mr Kevin Hannagan - Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku**
Seconded: Cr Tracey Rathbone – Shire of Coolgardie

CARRIED

12.3 Minerals Strategy – Update Report

Reporting Officer: Mr James Trail, Chief Executive Officer Shire of Coolgardie

Disclosure of Interest: Nil

Date: January 2020

Attachments: Final Draft Australian Venture Consultants Pty Ltd – Goldfields-Esperance Region of WA – Towards an infrastructure strategy for industry growth - Attachment 14 (note will be distributed at the meeting in hard copy with an electronic copy emailed next week)

Background:

At the GVROC Council Meeting on the 15th November 2019 an update report on the progress of the Goldfields-Esperance Region of WA – Towards an infrastructure strategy for industry growth was provided. The Council resolved

The GVROC Council note the update on the Goldfields-Esperance Region of WA – Towards an infrastructure strategy for industry growth.

RESOLUTION: **Moved: Cr Patrick Hill – Shire of Laverton**
Seconded: Cr Tracey Rathbone – Shire of Coolgardie

Carried

Comment:

A Consultation Draft from the contracted Australian Venture Consultants Pty Ltd, was distributed to the GVROC CEOs Group for comment on 4 October 2019. Feedback received was provided back to the consultants and this has been incorporated into a final draft for consideration and endorsement by the GVROC.

Consultation: Director RDAGE

Financial Implications: **Funding included in 2019/2020 Budget**

Strategic Implications: GVROC Strategic Plan 2017-2022
Objective 2, Goal 2.1,2.2

Voting Requirement: Simple majority

RECOMMENDATION:

That GVROC Council: Amend recommendation 12.3.

RESOLUTION: **Moved: Cr Tracey Rathbone – Shire of Coolgardie**
Seconded: Cr Laurene Bonza – Shire of Dundas

CARRIED

RECOMMENDATION:

That GVROC Council:

1. Note and receive the final draft of the Goldfields-Esperance Region of WA – Towards an infrastructure strategy for industry growth.
2. Convene a Strategic Workshop to determine the GVROC infrastructure priorities for the region based on the information from the report. This workshop could be held in conjunction with the next GVROC meeting in March 2020.

RESOLUTION: **Moved: Cr Tracey Rathbone – Shire of Coolgardie**
Seconded: Cr Laurene Bonza – Shire of Dundas

CARRIED

12.4 Establishing a GVROC Website

Reporting Officer: Mr Andrew Mann, Executive Officer GVROC

Disclosure of Interest: Nil

Date: January 2020

Attachments: Nil

Background:

It has been suggested by some of the GVROC CEOs that consideration be given by the GVROC Council to establish a dedicated Goldfields Esperance GVROC Website, highlighting the members combined direction. At the GVROC meeting held on 15th November 2019 it was resolved that:

RECOMMENDATION:

That GVROC Council approve the GVROC Executive Officer to work with the GVROC CEOs to investigate the set-up costs to deliver a dedicated GVROC Website and report back at the 31 January 2020 meeting.

RESOLUTION: **Moved: Cr Tracey Rathbone – Shire of Coolgardie**
Seconded: Cr Patrick Hill – Shire of Laverton

Carried

Comment:

There currently appears no support for progressing with an RFQ or EOI to determine a price for establishing a GVROC website, with little response coming from the GVROC CEOs. The issues discussed at the previous meeting, especially with the ongoing updating and maintenance of a website to make it relevant seems to outweigh the perceived benefits.

Consultation: GVROC Chair
GVROC CEOs

Financial Implications: RFQ or EOI to determine price. Will also require management and ongoing updating.

Strategic Implications: GVROC Strategic Plan 2017-2022
Objective 2, Goal 2.1,2.2

Voting Requirement: Simple majority

RECOMMENDATION:

That GVROC Council note that at this stage the GVROC will not establish its own dedicated website.

RESOLUTION: **Moved: Mr Kevin Hannagan - Shire of Ngaanyatjaraku**
Seconded: Cr Greg Dwyer – Shire of Menzies

CARRIED

12.5 Terms of Reference for GVROC Drought Relief Committee and nomination of members

Reporting Officers:	Mr Andrew Mann, Executive Officer - GVROC
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Date:	January 2020
Attachments:	Drought Relief Committee ToR Final – Attachment 15

Background:

On 15 November 2019 at the GVROC meeting a motion was adopted to establish a Drought Relief Committee subject to terms of reference being established and endorsed out of session by the GVROC.

Currently the Western Australia State Government is only committed to a “Dry Season” for the region, under the definitions of its Drought Policy. This is currently severely hampering local rangelands pastoral lease holders, farming land holders, associated industries and local governments in the region ability to access Federal Government Drought relief funding. Western Australia is the only State or Territory in Australia that does not have a drought declared area making it ineligible to receive funding, despite many areas currently being drought affected.

The other States have implemented processes which have already displayed that by having a coordinated response to drought, it can help support the retention of families on farms, and assist with employment generated through Infrastructure Programs for our region that could keep people on farms, and associated support industries in the regions and create jobs.

Therefore, the purpose of establishing a GVROC Drought Relief Committee is to assist in getting Western Australian rangelands drought declared by the Western Australian Government to assist our pastoral lease holders that are in drought.

The GVROC Drought Relief Committee will be tasked to determine the most effective governance process for becoming drought declared and to lobby and seek assistance for our Rangelands Pastoral Lease holders, farming land holders and associated industries sustainability into the future in the areas affected by the drought.

The Drought Relief Committee can also lobby State Government that pastoral land on mining leases should be managed under one Legislation, this will assist with the Feral Pest and Weeds issues and make this a even playing field and more competitive, hopefully then keeping more families, even on mining leases, as there are many cases that the two can co-exist, if managed properly.

Once drought declared, we should have a drought policy that is based on the concept of self-reliance, with a clear understanding drought is not caused by our farmers but by weather patterns. Primary producers should therefore adopt risk management strategies to minimise the impact of drought on their enterprises. However, it is recognised that prolonged and severe events may be beyond the ability of many producers to cope with financially and physically. If a property has been individually drought declared or is within a drought declared area, the property owner should be able to apply for drought assistance, including the Drought Relief Assistance.

This will provide subsidies on the transport of fodder and water for livestock during drought and returning from agistment and restocking in the recovery period, as well as the Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate to assist primary producers provide urgently needed water for animal welfare needs, from State Government.

It is the GVROC's view that there is a strong need to establish a Drought Relief Committee within GVROC to assist in the development of a clear plan and hierarchy for the future to address this issue. The Committee will work in cooperation with Federal and State Governments to ensure the future for primary producers and associated industries in the Region.

Officer Comment:

The draft Drought Relief Committee ToR were circulated out of session to the GVROC for comment in December 2019/January 2020. Several suggestions and comments have now been incorporated into the final version, which is attached to the agenda papers. Overall, all GVROC Councils supported the establishment of the Drought Relief Committee based on these revised and final ToR.

The Drought Relief Committee will be a sub-committee of the GVROC coordinated by the GVROC Councils and will include the following representatives:

1. Chair of the GVROC
2. Three nominated delegates from GVROC via EOI; and
3. Up to three nominated GVROC LGA CEOs via EOI.

It is now requested that the GVROC delegates undertake an EOI process during this agenda item to formalise its representatives.

It should also be noted that since the last GVROC meeting, there was a visit to Kalgoorlie in late November 2019 from the Federal Minister LittleProud to meet and discuss the drought situation in Western Australia with various Local Governments and potential assistance measures that may be available. During the meeting Minister LittleProud promised the fast tracking of various measures to allow assistance funding to flow through to WA Local Governments early in the New Year.

On 19 December 2019 the State Government declared a water deficiency for the Grass Patch area in the Shire of Esperance.

The CEO for Shire of Dundas, Peter Fitchat, has looked at the current assistance measures and tried to apply for funding in January 2020, only to be told that the Shire of Dundas is not an eligible local government. It seems that nothing has progressed from the Federal Government side, following Minister LittleProud's promise to look at getting WA Local Governments assistance, however it is understood that the Federal Department responsible is reviewing its eligibility criteria but has not given a timeframe on when this may be completed.

This will be an area for the Drought Committee to focus its attention on when formed.

Consultation: GVROC
GVROC CEOs

Financial Implications: TBD

Strategic Implications:
Improved Sustainability, Job creation and retention of Primary Industry well into the future.

Voting Requirement: Simple majority

RECOMMENDATION:

That the GVROC:

1. Note the Final ToR and formally endorse the establishment of a Drought Committee to further address this issue.
2. Endorse the following representatives as members of the Drought Relief Committee:
 - a. Chair of GVROC: Cr Mal Cullen – Shire of Coolgardie
 - b. Three GVROC delegates as follows: Cr Laurene Bonza – Shire of Dundas, Cr Jim Quadrio and Cr Tim Carmody – Shire of Wiluna
 - c. Two GVROC CEOs as follows: Mr Peter Fitchat – Shire of Dundas and Mr Colin Bastow – Shire of Wiluna

RESOLUTION: **Moved: Cr Laurene Bonza – Shire of Dundas**
Seconded: Cr Tracey Rathbone – Shire of Coolgardie

CARRIED

12.6 GVROC Representation on the District Emergency Management Committee (DEMC)

Reporting Officers: Mr Andrew Mann, Executive Officer - GVROC

Disclosure of Interest: Nil

Date: January 2020

Attachments: Nil

Background:

The GVROC representation on the DEMC was previously Cr Susie Williams with proxy delegate of Mayor John Bowler both from the City of Kalgoorlie Boulder. However, Cr Susie Williams has resigned from the CKB Council mid-last year and as such the GVROC has not had representation at meetings since that time.

Due to this situation the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) that manage the DEMC has formally requested to the GVROC Executive Officer that the GVROC nominate a new representative and proxy delegate to the DEMC.

The overarching role of the DEMC is to build resilience in communities through encouraging the prevention of and planning for high risk emergencies within the District in order to create safer, sustainable communities.

Currently the Goldfields Esperance DEMC's role includes;

- Assessing District Risk and assisting in the coordination of agencies to plan for these risks, i.e. the Rail response plan for the area of rail East of Kalgoorlie. Lack of medical services along the Eyre highway and contingencies around this. Development of district level remote response plans for all hazards.
- Ensuring that Local Governments and Local EM Committees (LEMCs) within the region are engaged in EM with a functional LEMC and are developing Local EM arrangements as per legislation.
- Development of inter-agency relationships at the district level which can be very beneficial in a major event, particularly in regard to the function of an Operational Area Support Group.
- Attendance at regional level HMA exercises that tests inter agency operability and the role community plays in these events.

Officer Comment:

DFES would ask that the nominated GVROC delegate would be able to attend regularly or provide a proxy. It is expected that they will represent the GVROC in their discussions, so may need to seek clarifications from other GVROC members to answer issues or participate in discussions that will be outlined in the agenda. This can also be an excellent forum for GVROC to raise district level concerns in regard to Emergency Management matters.

Consultation: GVROC Chair

Financial Implications: Nil

Strategic Implications: N/A

Voting Requirement: Simple majority

RECOMMENDATION:

That the GVROC endorse the new representative of Cr David Grills – City of Kalgoorlie Boulder and proxy delegate of Cr Tracey Rathbone – Shire of Coolgardie to represent GVROC on the DEMC.

RESOLUTION: **Moved: Cr John Bowler – City of Kalgoorlie Boulder**
Seconded: Cr Patrick Hill – Shire of Laverton

CARRIED

12.7 **Bushfire Mitigation Strategy and Preparedness**

Reporting Officers:	Mr Peter Fitchat, CEO Shire of Dundas Mr Matthew Scott, CEO Shire of Esperance Mr Andrew Mann, Executive Officer GVROC
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Date:	January 2020
Attachments:	Impact Statement Norseman Bushfire Complex - Dundas Shire – Attachment 16

Background:

The recent bushfires centred around Norseman comprised of nine (9) fires as detailed below. All of these fires were started by lightning strikes during the period 16 December 2019 to 1 January 2020. DFES assumed control of the nine (9) bushfires within the Norseman Bushfire Complex under s. 13 of the Bush Fires Act 1954 on 31 December 2019. The Complex of fires was declared a Level 3 Incident at that time. The incident was downgraded to Level 1 on 18 January 2020 and the All Clear was issued on 19 January 2020. As at 20 January 2020 the total area burnt was approximately 546,432 hectares.

- Norseman West (175,164 ha) #
- Balladonia (158,000 ha) #
- Peak Charles (32,579 ha)
- Londonderry (12,044 ha)
- Dundas NR 1&2 (109,121 ha) #
- Caves Rock (271 ha)
- Wylie Scarp (58,974 ha) #
- Bedonia (279 ha) #

Fires within the Shire of Dundas.

The fires were contained to Unallocated Crown Land (UCL), Dundas Nature Reserve (DBCAs), Scahill Timber Reserve (DBCAs), Peak Charles Nature Reserve (DCBA) and a small portion of the south east corner of Balladonia Pastoral Station.

The fires threatened or directly impacted a number of roads including the Eyre Highway (Balladonia), the Coolgardie-Esperance Highway (Norseman West), the Hyden-Norseman Road and Mort Harslett Drive (Norseman West), the Lake King-Norseman Road (Peak Charles), Balladonia-Parmango Road and Zanthus Road, resulting in protracted road closures. A number of local roads were also closed as a result of these fires. This resulted in significant disruption to local, regional and interstate transport.

Despite the size and severity of the fires there has been no loss of human life, no serious injuries to firefighters or members of the public and limited physical damage to infrastructure and other community values.

However, as was found out through this experience and also highlighted after the tragic 2015 bushfires in Esperance and subsequent Coronial Inquest into the four deaths from those fires and the coroners recommendations (note to date most of these recommendations have not been actioned by the State) https://www.coronerscourt.wa.gov.au/Inquest_into_the_deaths_of_kym_brett_curnow_thomas_leslie_butcher_julie_kohrs_lichte_and_anna_sushchova_winter.aspx, there is an urgent need to establish a detailed bushfire mitigation strategy for the region that can be presented by GVROC to the State and Federal Governments, outlining what the region would like to see changed and actioned to alleviate the impact on any future bushfire events.

When visiting the bushfire zone, Minister for Emergency Services, Fran Logan MLA, advised that the State Government would allocate funding towards the development of bushfire mitigation strategies and has provided a list of potential consultants that could be used. The process for accessing this assistance needs to be followed up to ensure that it can assist the GVROC in developing its Bushfire Mitigation Strategy for the Region.

Officers Comment:

The Shire of Dundas would like to get Political support to be more proactive in the approach to National and Regional Bush Fire Mitigation, noting the impact on larger and more populated areas is not the same for less populated areas, and the current disregard to small resource communities directly impacted by the following Acts and Trigger Points:

- Mining Act 1978,
- Bush Fires Act 1954,
- Category C Trigger point for small communities to be revised as the required trigger point of \$240,000.00 is over 10% of the Shire of Dundas's total revenue raised per financial year, compared to other areas like City of Kalgoorlie Boulder it would only be 0.2% of their Budget.
- Potential job opportunities directly linked to more sustainable management of the Woodlands and our Coastline.
- Local Government has to be resourced by Federal and State Government to be able to cope with large-scale emergency situations.

There is no State or Federal Act or Policy in place to assist a small resource community that is dealing with the financial burden of a bushfire and the expected management of the land, especially when it has a declining population and rates base. The Shire of Dundas advise it would need to increase its rates by 300% to continue to meet this need. Political pressure is required to address this issue and making the playing field more even especially looking at what the region is contributing to General Revenue, State and Federal Government, when setting trigger points.

The Shire of Esperance currently has a good working relationship with DFES, following on from Esperance Fires in 2015. It is currently working with them in a number of areas including:

- Undertaking a fuel load assessment report for the Esperance region
- Starting a pilot trial to test specific tyres on bush fighting vehicles as a result of the GVROC item raised at its meeting on 15 November 2019 and at the WALGA State Council meeting 4 December 2019.

However, the Shire would also like to see a detailed Bushfire Mitigation Strategy developed for the region and that this is recognised and actioned by the State and Federal Governments. Of particular relevance for the Bushfire Mitigation Strategy would be these recommendations from the Coroner Inquest into the November 2015 Esperance Fires, which relate to additional mitigation measures:

Recommendation 4

I recommend that the State Government give consideration to giving a higher drafting priority to the Consolidated Emergency Services Act.

Recommendation 7

I recommend that the South-East Fire Working Group's final plan for a long-term fire mitigation strategy be fully supported and funded by DFES and the State Government. I suggest that at a minimum, the funding should cover a period of ten years to allow for the creation of firebreaks and strategic fire exit tracks on the vast area of UCL in the Esperance region, with a view to then formalising ongoing funding for maintenance after that time on a long-term basis.

Recommendation 8

I also recommend that consideration be given to reviewing the Memorandum of Understanding between DPaW and the Shire and, as part of that process, the MOU should include a more streamlined procedure to ensure that the best balance can be met between ensuring that cognisance is taken of rare flora and fauna and areas of cultural significance on the interface with farms and UCL, but which permits farmers to undertake mitigation works expeditiously to ensure fire risk is reduced on the borders.

These recommendations can be expanded to the whole of the GVROC region for the Bushfire Mitigation Strategy.

The Federal Government recently also announced a range of Bushfire related funding, much of which Western Australia currently looks like being excluded, because of the current State Government's regulations, trigger points and classifications for disaster. These need to be reviewed and assessed in the context of the Bushfire Mitigation Strategy to ensure that the State and the GVROC LGAs are not disadvantaged to the rest of the Nation.

The Prime Minister also announced the formation of the National Bushfire Recovery Agency along with a new national bushfire recovery fund, with an initial \$2 billion commitment. (Link to the announcement: <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/national-bushfire-recovery-agency>). The RDA network has been asked to provide input into these programs as they are designed and implemented and RDAGE are seeking input from the GVROC. A GVROC Bushfire Mitigation Strategy could provide input into that process.

Additionally, the Federal Government House of Representatives Committee, under the request of the Minister for Water Resources, Drought, Rural Finance, Natural Disaster and Emergency Management, the Hon David Littleproud MP, resolved on 5 December 2019 to conduct an inquiry into the efficacy of past and current vegetation and land management policy, practice and legislation and their effect on the intensity and frequency of bushfires and subsequent risk to property, life and the environment (Refer to the following link <https://www.aph.gov.au/vegetationandlandmanagement>). Submissions into the inquiry close on 31 March 2020 and the Shire of Dundas is looking to put in a submission but would also do this as a joint GVROC submission, should the GVROC agree to submit as a collective group.

On 14th January 2019 a Local Government Bushfire meeting was also held with City of Kalgoorlie Boulder, Shire of Dundas and Shire of Coolgardie, organised by Kyran O'Donnell MLA and also attended by State Opposition Leader Liza Harvey to discuss the impact of the Norseman Complex Bushfires that led to the closure of the main entry point into the Eastern States – the Eyre Highway and the Coolgardie-Esperance Highway closure, leaving hundreds of travellers both from Western and Eastern states stranded across the borders for days.

The outcome from this meeting was a number of recommendations that should be considered in the development of a Bushfire Mitigation Strategy for the GVROC Region as follows:

1. Local governments should have access to funding for emergencies, and the authority on how to allocate that funding. Most often they are first on the ground and will have resources and manpower to keep the emergency situation in control. This will save the government a lot of money, the current system does not allow for that. For example: Shire of Coolgardie had a tree on fire. When contacted DFES, they were told to monitor the tree. The Shire could have easily gotten the help of residents to put it out themselves.
2. The Bush Fires Act 1954 be reviewed. Councils are responsible for Crown Land, which they do not receive rates for. It is the council's responsibility to manage any fires that start there and for our remote areas, this could mean somewhere in the middle of the bush. Councils may not have the financial means nor manpower to access some of these areas.
3. The Emergency Services Levy (ESL) should be partly allocated to local government for better fire mitigation and emergency response. For example: Two weeks ago, the Shire of Coolgardie had a fire just 3km away from town. They were unable to get any help from DFES as DFES was busy fighting fires in Norseman.
4. The DFES Superintendent should be based locally
5. Lobby the State Government to activate a Category 3 bushfire disaster recovery relief in order for councils to receive Federal funding.
6. Lobby the State Government to review its DRFA WA criteria of \$240,000. It should not be a blanket size for all councils as they differ vastly in sizes and population. It is too restrictive and does not take in other expenses incurred by shires such as social costs, accommodating stranded travellers, loss of shire and council resources to fighting fires and replacing those resources. Other states in Australia seem to have less restrictive guidelines and inclusions. For instance, some eastern states LGAs incurred road closures only during the bushfires and still received the \$1million from the Federal Government Bushfire relief funds. WA was the only bushfire state, where an LGA did not receive funding.

7. Grade the Trans Access Road and have a link road from the Eyre Highway to the Trans Access Road.
8. Great Central Highway needs funding to be improved.
9. Prescribed burnings to be changed from Environmental agencies to Emergency Services.

It is important that development of the Bushfire Mitigation Strategy considers these recommendations.

Consultation:	Shire of Dundas Shire of Esperance
Financial Implications:	TBD
Strategic Implications:	GVROC Strategic Plan 2017-2022
Voting Requirement:	Simple majority

RECOMMENDATION:

That the GVROC:

1. Note the impact and issues that have arisen in mitigating the recent bushfires in the region as per the report.
2. Nominate a team from the GVROC CEOs, with assistance from the Executive Officer to develop a detailed and joint GVROC Bushfire Mitigation Strategy for presentation to the State and Federal Government's for consideration, action and funding.
3. Consider the formation of a regional multi agency working group (similar to the South East Fire Working group) to develop a proactive long-term mitigation plan on the ground.
4. Note the formation of the National Bushfire Recovery Agency along with a new national bushfire recovery fund with an initial \$2 billion commitment, and for the GVROC CEO Bushfire Mitigation Strategy Team to provide input to the RDAGE for consideration in the design and implementation of these funds.
5. Note the current Federal Government House of Representatives Inquiry outlined in this item and consider making a joint GVROC submission with the Shire of Dundas as the lead.

RESOLUTION: **Moved: Cr Tracey Rathbone – Shire of Coolgardie**
Seconded: Cr Peter Craig – Shire of Leonora

CARRIED

12.8 GVROC Regional Equipment Pool Hire – Annual Usage Report

Reporting Officers:	Mr John Walker, CEO City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Date:	January 2020
Attachments:	GVROC Regional Equipment Pool Hire: 01.01.2019 – 31.12.2019 Attachment 17

Background:

The City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder provides regular reports on the usage of the GVROC Regional Equipment Pool.

A report for the twelve-month period 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2019 forms an attachment to the meeting agenda.

The only expense during the period was \$180 for cleaning, which was recouped from the bond paid by the Goldfields Sanddrags as they didn't return the toilet block in a clean condition.

Officer Comment:

No further comment

Consultation:	City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder
Financial Implications:	Nil
Strategic Implications:	GVROC Strategic Plan 2017-2022 Objective 2 Goal 2.1
Voting Requirement:	Simple majority

RECOMMENDATION:

That GVROC note the usage report of the GVROC Regional Equipment Pool Hire prepared by the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder.

RESOLUTION: **Moved: Cr Patrick Hill – Shire of Laverton**
 Seconded: Cr Peter Craig – Shire of Leonora

CARRIED

12.9 Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries – Request for feedback on role of the Department and information sort by GVROC for future meetings

Reporting Officers:	Mr Andrew Mann, Executive Officer GVROC
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Date:	January 2020
Attachments:	Letter from Duncan Ord, Director General, DLGSCI (Attachment 18)

Background:

Part of the DLGSCI's role is to oversee the State Local Government Partnership Agreement between the Government of Western Australia, WALGA and Local Government Professionals WA. This partnership acknowledges the valuable role local government plays and the Government's commitment to partnering with local government to support the community.

For the department to be responsive to the GVROC and Goldfields Esperance Zone, they are seeking feedback From GVROC on what the role of the department should be and the type of information the GVROC Zone would like to receive.

The Department can provide information relating to the business areas below, that is has government responsibility for or source information from across state government more broadly.

- Local Government – Minister Templeman
- Culture and the Arts – Minister Templeman
- Sport and Recreation – Minister Murray
- Office of Multicultural Interests – Minister Papalia
- Racing Gaming and Liquor – Minister Papalia
- Aboriginal History Unit - Minister Wyatt

The Department's initial thoughts for GVROC consideration are:

- the department to provide a 20-minute presentation at the first or second meeting of 2020 on relevant key projects;
- Zone secretariats allow 10 minutes for the department on the agenda to provide a brief update and time for discussion around key issues and opportunities for your Zone; and
- at each Zone meeting, members provide the department with topics or presentations they would like to receive at the next meeting, either from DLGSCI or other state government agencies.

Officer Comment:

No further comment.

Consultation:	DLGSCI
Financial Implications:	Nil
Strategic Implications:	N/A
Voting Requirement:	Simple majority

RECOMMENDATION:

That the GVROC:

1. Note the request from the DLGSCI.
2. Allocate a 20-minute presentation to the DLGSCI at the GVROC meeting scheduled 20 March in Norseman on relevant key projects.

3. Continue to have on the GVROC agenda an item for a DLGSCI Agency report and allow its representatives 10 minutes to provide a brief update and time for discussion around key issues and opportunities for the GVROC Zone.
4. At each GVROC Zone meeting, provide the department with topics or presentations they would like to receive at the next meeting, either from DLGSCI or other state government agencies

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Tracey Rathbone – Shire of Coolgardie

Seconded: Cr Ian Mickel – Shire of Esperance

CARRIED

12.10 Second independent review of Australia's primary national environmental law, the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999, also known as the EPBC Act.

Reporting Officers: Mr Andrew Mann, Executive Officer GVROC

Disclosure of Interest: Nil

Date: January 2020

Attachments: Nil

Background:

The EPBC Act requires that an independent review be undertaken at least once every ten years. The review must examine the operation of the Act and the extent to which its objects have been achieved. The last review was completed in 2009 and the Commonwealth Government announced the second independent review in October 2019.

The broad terms of reference for the review are as follows:

In accordance with section 522A of the EPBC Act, the review will examine:

- a. the operation of the Act, and
- b. the extent to which the objects of the Act have been achieved.

The review will make recommendations to modernise the EPBC Act and its operation to address current and future environmental challenges, including consideration of:

- a. The objects in section 3(1)(a)-(g) of the Act
- b. Australia's international environmental responsibilities
- c. Indigenous peoples' knowledge and role in the management of the environment and heritage
- d. implementation of relevant agreements between the Commonwealth, states and territories
- e. other legislation that may relate to the operation of the Act
- f. recommendations of previous reviews and inquiries and significant publications regarding the operation of the Act and potential reform
- g. broad consultation, including with state, territory and other levels of government, non-government organisations, Indigenous peoples, members of the community, industry and academia, and
- h. costs and benefits of recommendations.

The review will be guided by the principles of:

- a. protecting Australia's unique environment through strong, clear and focused protections
- b. making decisions simpler, including by reducing unnecessary regulatory burdens for Australians, businesses and governments
- c. supporting partnerships to deliver for the environment, supporting investment and creating new jobs
- d. improving transparency to ensure better use of information, accountability and trust in the system, and
- e. streamlining and integrating planning to support ecologically sustainable development.

The Independent Reviewer will provide a report to the Minister for the Environment within 12 months of the commencement of the review. Professor Graeme Samuel AC will conduct the review, supported by an Expert Panel comprising Mr Bruce Martin, Dr Erica Smyth AC, Dr Wendy Craik AM and Professor Andrew Macintosh.

The review will draw upon the knowledge and experience of a range of scientific and other technical bodies throughout the process including the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), Geoscience Australia, the six National Environmental Science Program hubs, the Threatened Species Scientific Committee and the Independent Expert Scientific Committee on Coal Seam Gas and Large Coal Mining Development. The knowledge and experience of the Indigenous Advisory Committee and Australian Heritage Council will also be sought. The review will examine a wide range of information and explore views through extensive consultation with state and territory governments, interest groups, scientists, Indigenous Australians, academics, and the general public. Over the next 12 months there will be many opportunities to be involved following the timeline below.

Oct 2019 - Review announced
 Nov 2019 - Discussion paper released
 Apr 2020 - Submissions due
 Jun 2020 - Draft report
 Oct 2020 - Final Report

The discussion paper is the first step in consultation for the review (see <https://epbcactreview.environment.gov.au/resources/discussion-paper>). With broad terms of reference, a key early step in the review process will be to identify those areas where reform will deliver the greatest benefit for the environment, business and the community, while maintaining strong environmental standards. In addition to outlining the EPBC Act, what it does and where it came from, this paper is intended to be thought-provoking. It identifies some of the long-term pressures on Australia's environment and heritage, and known concerns with the operation of the legislation, especially with its regulatory processes.

Potential areas of focus for the review are explored, and some possible options for reform are floated. These are not settled views, rather a starting point to stimulate discussion. The aim is to explore a wide range of options and to develop sensible recommendations for reform that can be implemented. Over the next 12 months the review will consider a wide range of information and explore ideas provided by communities, business, environmental groups, Indigenous Australians, academics and others.

Officer Comment:

The Commonwealth Government is calling for all interested parties to provide written submissions to the review, particularly in response to the ideas and 26 questions set out in the discussion paper with submissions on the discussion paper due by 5pm (AEDST), Friday, 14 February 2020. If the GVROC consider that the EPBC Act impacts on their current operations and their regions development, then it is suggested that the GVROC make a submission on the discussion paper.

The GVROC Executive Officer is also aware of other Western Australian groups that are preparing submissions, including the Regional Capitals Alliance WA (RCAWA). The RCAWA have advised they would be open to the GVROC working with them to develop a GVROC submission that is aligned with the RCAWA submission.

Current issues identified and to be included to date in the RCAWA submission include:

- duplication with state legislation
- precautionary principle approach
- elongated timeframes
- onerous scientific and technical content requirement
- unreasonable and unnecessary offset policies

Consultation: GVROC Chair
 RCAWA Executive Officer

Financial Implications: Nil

Strategic Implications: N/A

Voting Requirement: Simple majority

RECOMMENDATION:

That the GVROC note the terms of reference and discussion paper for the second independent review of the EPBC Act and work with WALGA and RCAWA in making a submission on the draft discussion paper.

RESOLUTION: **Moved: Cr Peter Craig – Shire of Leonora**
Seconded: Cr Tracey Rathbone – Shire of Coolgardie

CARRIED

12.11 Cashless Debit Card Program

Reporting Officer:	Cr Malcolm Cullen, President – Shire of Coolgardie
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Date:	24 January 2020
Attachments:	Preliminary Response to the Discussion Paper – Remote Employment and Participation – Attachment 19

Background:

Senator Jacqui Lambie, Senator for Tasmania, visited several local government cashless debit card trial sites this week in the Goldfields region. Senate is expected to vote on the trial's extension next month which would extend the current trial sites past 2021.

When the cashless debit card was introduced in the Goldfields, the Federal government committed to \$1 million in wrap-around services (over three years from 2018 – 2021) to ensure that children and families in the Goldfields have a well-targeted, coordinated, effective system of support services.

Discussions held between the Shire of Coolgardie and the Senator indicated that it is still unclear if the \$1 million has been invested in the Goldfields region for these services. Other topics of discussion included the CDP program, training and transition of employment for cashless debit card shopfront staff.

Officer Comment:

Senator Jackie Lambie requested that the GVROC develop a submission and include the following:

- identify priorities for the \$1M promised to the Goldfields for wrap-around services
- provide recommendations on employment options for cashless debit card shopfront staff – financial support, budgeting assistance
- provide a background on the Community Development Program and its outcomes (refer to attachment)

Minderoo Foundation has engaged a consultancy company to assist in quantifying the outcomes of the cashless debit card. Minderoo has requested information from the GVROC on potential outcomes in the region requiring data analysis to demonstrate the impact of the card (i.e. crime statistics).

Consultation: Senator Jackie Lambie
Ms Ann Mills, The Minderoo Foundation

Financial Implications: Nil

Strategic Implications: N/A

Voting Requirement: Simple majority

RECOMMENDATION:

That, the GVROC develop a draft submission to Senator Jacqui Lambie and the Minderoo Foundation responding to the additional information requested about the cashless debit card trial in the Goldfields region for endorsement out of session by GVROC to meet the required deadlines.

RESOLUTION: **Moved: Cr Patrick Hill – Shire of Laverton**
Seconded: Cr Peter Craig – Shire of Leonora

CARRIED

13. AGENCY REPORTS

13.1 WALGA

WALGA minutes for the Mining Communities Policy Forum held on 4 December 2019 for noting (Attachment 20)

WALGA verbal update report was provided by Mr Tony Brown and Ms Jo Burges. A copy of the WALGA update report is attached to these minutes.

13.2 Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries

DLGSCI verbal update report was provided by Ms Erin Bond

13.3 Goldfields Esperance Development Commission

No Report provided.

13.4 Regional Development Australia Goldfields-Esperance

RDAGE verbal update report was provided by Ms Lee Jacobson.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the GVROC note the Agency Reports and verbal updates as provided.

RESOLUTION:

Moved: Cr Tracey Rathbone – Shire of Coolgardie
Seconded: Cr Peter Craig – Shire of Leonora

CARRIED

14. LATE ITEMS as notified, introduced by decision of the Meeting

Cr Jim Quadrio, Shire President of Wiluna, requested a vote of thanks be noted from GVROC to the farmers, communities of Esperance and surrounds plus the truck drivers for the supply of hay and other items to those farmers and pastoral station owners located in Wiluna and Meekathara local government regions suffering from drought.

RESOLUTION: **Moved: Cr Tracey Rathbone – Shire of Coolgardie**
 Seconded: Cr Laurene Bonza – Shire of Dundas

CARRIED

15. FUTURE GVROC COUNCIL MEETINGS/FUNCTIONS

Next Meetings

The following are the suggested for GVROC meeting dates in 2020 after the Esperance meeting in January.

- 20 March 2020 (Norseman) includes a meeting of the GVROC Strategic Working Group
- 15 May 2020 (Kalgoorlie)
- 10 July 2020 (Laverton)
- August 2020 – WALGA Local Government Convention in Perth
- 16 October 2020 (Coolgardie)

The following are the WALGA State Council meeting dates in 2020 with suggested GVROC teleconference meeting dates prior to these to inform the GVROCs representatives attend the meetings with relevant input for State Council Agenda Items:

- 4 March 2020 - (GVROC Teleconference 28 February 2020)
- 6 May 2020 – (GVROC Teleconference 1 May 2020)
- 3 June 2020 Budget meeting - (GVROC Teleconference 29 May 2020)
- 1 July 2020 - (GVROC Teleconference 26 June 2020)
- 3-4 September 2020 Regional meeting Broome - (GVROC Teleconference 28 August 2020)
- 2 December 2020 - (GVROC Teleconference 27 November 2020)

16. CLOSURE OF MEETING

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 2:38pm.