

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING # 46 OF THE ROPER GULF
REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE CONFERENCE ROOM
ROPER GULF REGIONAL COUNCIL, HEADQUARTERS
29 CRAWFORD STREET, KATHERINE ON WEDNESDAY, 17 DECEMBER 2014
AT 8.42AM

1. PRESENT/STAFF/GUESTS

1.1 Members

Mayor Tony Jack
Deputy Mayor Judy MacFarlane
Councillor John Dalywater
Councillor Eric Roberts
Independent Member, Geoff Bishop

1.2 Staff

DCG, Director Corporate Governance, Greg Arnott
DCSI, Director Council Services & Infrastructure, Sharon Hillen
DCTS, Director Contracts & Technical Services, Marc Gardner
Manager Finance (Acting), Raju Koirala
Manager Governance, Jyoti Pudasaini

1.3 Guests

Nil

2. MEETING OPENED

Meeting opened at 8:42 am by Mayor Tony Jack.

3. WELCOME TO COUNTRY

Mayor Tony Jack welcomed members and staff to the Finance Committee meeting.

4. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

4.1 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

68/2014 RESOLVED (Eric Roberts/Judy MacFarlane)

- (a) That Finance Committee accept apology from CEO Michael Berto and Councillor Kathy-Anne Numamurdirdi.

5. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

5.1 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

69/2014 RESOLVED (Judy MacFarlane/Eric Roberts)

- (a) That Finance Committee receive and note the confirmed minutes from Finance Committee Meeting held on 17 September 2014.

6. CALL FOR ITEMS OF GENERAL BUSINESS

- DCSI Sharon Hillen: Roper River Landcare Group request for use of Hall
- DCTS Marc Gardner: Outstation program
- Deputy Mayor Judy MacFarlane: RGRC Vehicles
- Cr. Eric Roberts: MoU with Northern Land Council
- DCSI Sharon Hillen: National Stronger Regions Fund

7. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Nil

8. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest at this Finance Committee.

9. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

9.1 ACTION LIST

70/2014 RESOLVED (Geoff Bishop/Eric Roberts)

- (a) That Finance Committee receive and note action list from previous minutes.

10. INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE

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71/2014 RESOLVED (Geoff Bishop/John Dalywater)

- (a) That Finance Committee receive and note Incoming correspondence.

11. OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE

Nil

12. EXECUTIVE DIRECTORATE REPORTS

Nil

13. CORPORATE GOVERNANCE DIRECTORATE REPORTS

13.1 FAG INDEXATION

DCG Greg Arnott Presented the report. Greg advised the Committee that ALGA has been considering a strategy to run a campaign which is to restore the indexation of Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs) and how local government can articulate the importance of the direct relationship between it and the Commonwealth government both politically and financially. This will involve local government talking to its constituents about the practical importance of FAGs and the impact of the reduction on councils.

Committee was recommended to support the campaign to restore the indexation of Financial assistance Grants.

72/2014 RESOLVED (Geoff Bishop/John Dalywater)

- (a) That Finance Committee supports the campaign to restore the indexation of the Financial Assistance Grants by highlighting to Federal politicians:
- the absolute need for the grants
 - the losses resulting from the Grants not being indexed
- (b) That Finance Committee agree to work with LGANT to document the many reforms and activities which demonstrate improvements and efficiencies councils are undertaking.

13.2 FINANCE REPORT - RGRC FINANCIAL REPORT AS AT 30 NOVEMBER 2014

73/2014 RESOLVED (Judy MacFarlane/John Dalywater)

- (a) That Finance Committee receive and note the financial reports for the period ending 30th November 2014.

ACTION: CEO to provide detail report on financial breakdown on Agency Services.

ACTION: Community Expenditure Report to be included in financial report on agenda for OCM and FCM.

13.3 FINANCE - BAD DEBTS WRITE OFF

74/2014 RESOLVED (Judy MacFarlane/Eric Roberts)

- (a) That Finance Committee write off the bad debts of \$1,501.89 as per attached report.

ACTION: The client who do not pay their Post Box charge at 30 days to receive reminder letter to be paid in 4 weeks or close of box.

13.4 GRANTS - LIBRARY GRANT 2013-14 ACQUITTAL

75/2014 RESOLVED (Eric Roberts/John Dalywater)

- (a) That Council accept the acquittal of the 2013-14 funding for Library Operational Grant from NT Libraries by signing and dating the acquittal form.

Deputy Mayor Judy MacFarlane left the meeting, the time being 09:54 am

Deputy Mayor Judy MacFarlane returned to the meeting, the time being 09:55 am

13.5 GRANTS - RJCP COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND VARIATION - DEPARTMENT PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET

76/2014 RESOLVED (John Dalywater/Eric Roberts)

- (a) That Finance Committee accept the variation to the funding for the Community Development Fund Construction Training Activities by initialing each page, 2 signatures, dating and affixing the Common Seal to the variation.

**13.6 GRANTS - VARIATION IRSD NUMBULWAR AIRPORT ROAD UPGRADE -
DEPARTMENT OF PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET**

77/2014 RESOLVED (Judy MacFarlane/Eric Roberts)

- (a) That Finance Committee accept the variation to the Numbulwar Airport Road Upgrade funding by initialing each page, 2 signatures and affixing the Common Seal to the variation.

**13.7 GRANTS - SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAMME VARIATION 2015 - DEPARTMENT
OF PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET**

78/2014 RESOLVED (Judy MacFarlane/Geoff Bishop)

- (a) That Finance Committee accept the variation for School Nutrition Programme by initialing each page, 2 signatures and witness, and affixing the Common Seal to the variation.

**13.8 GRANTS - 2014-15 ACTIVE REMOTE COMMUNITIES FUNDING AGREEMENT -
DEPARTMENT OF SPORT, RECREATION AND RACING**

79/2014 RESOLVED (Judy MacFarlane/Eric Roberts)

- (a) That Finance Committee accept the funding offer for the Active Remote Communities Program by signing and affixing the Common Seal to the funding agreement.

Morning tea break: 10:02am

Meeting resume: 10: 29 am

**13.9 GRANTS - 2014-15 INTERNATIONAL WOMENS DAY GRANT PROGRAM
AGREEMENT - DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES**

80/2014 RESOLVED (Eric Roberts/Judy MacFarlane)

- (a) That Finance Committee accept the funding for the 2014-15 International Women's Day Grants Program by 2 signatures, dating and affixing the Common Seal to the agreement.

14. COUNCIL SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE REPORTS

Nil

15. COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTORATE REPORTS

Nil

16. CONTRACTS & TECHNICAL SERVICES DIRECTORATE REPORTS

Nil

17. GENERAL BUSINESS

17.1 ROPER RIVER LANDCARE GROUP REQUEST FOR USE OF HALL

DCSI Sharon Hillen advised the committee that a letter was received by RGRC from Roper River Landcare Group requesting to waive Mataranka hall hiring fee for the duration of the exhibition which is for 3 days in 2015. The cost for using Mataranka Hall for 3 days would be \$855.

Deputy Mayor informed the committee that the exhibition event time is different from the Never Never festival time.

Committee noted that Council is to be acknowledged on the Council supported events.

81/2014 RESOLVED (Judy MacFarlane/Eric Roberts)

- (a) **That Finance Committee approve the waiver of fees for using Mataranka Hall for the exhibition organised by Roper River Landcare group in 2015.**

17.2 KEWYULI OUTSTATION PROGRAM

DCTS Marc Gardner advised the Committee that Kewyuli is an outstation under NT Government. Currently it has been serviced by Alawa Corporation. Outstation residents have requested Council to take over Municipal and Essential Services. This was agreed to out of meeting on site. With Council's approval, RGRC is looking towards administering the transfer through our current contract resulting Kewyuli being added to our outstation list.

The Committee was further advised that there is no official letter received from Kewyuli community requesting RGRC to deliver service.

82/2014 RESOLVED (John Dalywater/Eric Roberts)

- (a) **That Finance Committee receive and note verbal update on Kewyuli Outstation.**

ACTION: DCTS to get official letter from Kewyuli community requesting RGRC to deliver service.

17.3 VEHICLES

Deputy Mayor raised concern on the vehicle budget included in the amended budget that was presented to the Council in November OCM.

DCG Greg Arnott briefed the budget and the actual expense fact on vehicle purchase.

Deputy Mayor raised concern on number of vehicle damage that have occurred where staff members were involved.

DCG Greg Arnott briefed the committee on the action that have been taken to minimise the risk of accidents with new drivers driving on dirt road.

83/2014 RESOLVED (Judy MacFarlane/John Dalywater)

- (a) **That Finance Committee receive and note verbal update on RGRC vehicles.**

ACTION: CEO to provide WH&S information at Council meeting.

17.4 MOU WITH NORTHERN LAND COUNCIL

Cr. Eric Roberts raised concern on agreement between RGRC and NLC.

DCSI Sharon Hillen updated Committee on the agreement that Council has with the Northern Land Council. Agreement with NLC is formal and separate with any other agreements. Other MoU process with Malwopra Aboriginal Corporation will be separate to what RGRC has agreed with NLC.

84/2014 RESOLVED (Eric Roberts/John Dalywater)

- (a) **That Finance Committee receive and note verbal update on MoU with Northern Land Council.**

17.5 NATIONAL STRONGER REGION FUND

DCSI updated Committee that RGRC has applied National Stronger Region Fund for Borrooloola, Ngukurr and Numbulwar for bigger infrastructure projects. If RGRC receive the funding consultations will be undertaken prior to commencing the project.

85/2014 RESOLVED (Judy MacFarlane/John Dalywater)

- (a) The Finance Committee receive and note verbal update on National Stronger Region Fund.

18. CLOSED SESSION

DECISION TO MOVE TO CLOSED SESSION

86/2014 RESOLVED (Judy MacFarlane/John Dalywater)

Members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting of the Closed Session and access to the correspondence and reports relating to the items considered during the course of the Closed Session be withheld. This action is taken in accordance with Section 65(2) of the Local Government Act, 2008 as the items lists come within the following provisions:-

18.1 Management Letter - *The report will be dealt with under Section 65(2) (e) of the Local Government Act 2008 and Regulation 8 of the Local Government (Administration) Regulations 2008. It contains information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to cause commercial prejudice to, or confer an unfair commercial advantage on any person; AND information provided to the council on condition that it be keep confidential.*

18.2 JCAC Lease Negotiations - *The report will be dealt with under Section 65(2) of the Local Government Act 2008 and Regulation 8 of the Local Government (Administration) Regulations 2008. It contains information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to cause commercial prejudice to, or confer an unfair commercial advantage on any person.*

RESUMPTION OF MEETING

87/2014 RESOLVED (Judy MacFarlane/Eric Roberts)

That the decisions of Closed Session be noted as follows:-

CLOSED SESSION

18.1 MANAGEMENT LETTER

88/2014 RESOLVED (Geoff Bishop/Eric Roberts)

- (a) That Finance Committee receive and note Management Letter.

18.2 JCAC LEASE NEGOTIATIONS

RECOMMENDATION

- (a) That Finance Committee deferred the item for next Council Meeting.

CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting terminated at 11:51am.

THIS PAGE AND THE PRECEEDING 7 PAGES ARE THE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 17 DECEMBER 2014 AND CONFIRMED WEDNESDAY, 28 JANUARY 2015.



Mayor Tony Jack