

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE ROPER GULF
REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 2 CRAWFORD STREET, KATHERINE
ON TUESDAY, 24 JANUARY 2017 AT 8:30AM

1 PRESENT/STAFF/GUESTS

1.1 Elected Members

Mayor Tony Jack - Chairperson
Deputy Mayor Judy MacFarlane
Councillor Eric Roberts
Councillor John Dalywater
Councillor Kathy-Anne Numamurdirdi (via telephone)
Independent Member, Geoff Bishop

1.2 Staff

Michael Berto, Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
Sharon Hillen, Director Council and Community Services (DCCS)
Marc Gardner, Director Commercial Services (DCS)
Lokesh Anand, Manager Finance
Bala Donepudi, Management Accountant
Amanda Haigh, Manager Governance, Corporate Planning and Compliance
Stewart Innes, Governance Officer (Minute Taker)

1.3 Guests

2 MEETING OPENED

Meeting opened at 8.37am

3 WELCOME TO COUNTRY

Mayor Tony Jack welcomed members and staff to the meeting and the Council Pledge was read.

4 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

There were no apologies for this Finance Committee meeting.

5 CALL FOR ITEMS OF GENERAL BUSINESS

1. LGANT Call for Policy and Action Motions Regional – *Director of Corporate Governance*
2. Late Incoming Correspondence - Re: Update on remote housing program from Minister for Housing and Community Development. - *CEO*
3. Late Outgoing Correspondence – Invitation to Chief Minister to attend the Australian Citizenship ceremony in Borroloola. - *CEO*
4. Late Outgoing Correspondence – Invitation to Minister McCarthy to attend the Australian Citizenship ceremony in Borroloola. - *CEO*

5. Late Outgoing Correspondence – Invitation to Mr Mark Wakeling to attend Australian Citizenship ceremony in Borroloola. - *CEO*
6. Late Outgoing Correspondence – Invitation to Mrs Lesley Wakeling to attend Australian Citizenship ceremony in Borroloola. - *CEO*
7. Corporate Governance Directorate Report – GRANTS: Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics Remote Economic Infrastructure Fund (REIF) – Barunga Store Heavy Vehicle Route Funding Offer Regional – *Director of Corporate Governance*
8. Lot 386 Borroloola Ownership Documents Name Change from Shire to Regional – *Director of Corporate Governance*
9. Outstation Report – *Director of Commercial Services*

6 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

NIL

7 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest at this meeting.

8 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

8.1 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

1/2017 RESOLVED (Geoff Bishop/Eric Roberts) Carried

- (a) That the Finance Committee receive and note the minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on 23 November 2016.

9 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

9.1 ACTION LIST

2/2017 RESOLVED (Judy MacFarlane/Kathy-Anne Numamurdiridi) Carried

- (a) That the Finance Committee receive and note the action list.

10 INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE

10.1 INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE

3/2017 RESOLVED (Eric Roberts/Kathy-Anne Numamurdiridi) Carried

- (a) That the Finance Committee accept the Incoming correspondence.

11 OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE

11.1 OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE

Spelling error noted in listing for correspondence to Northern Land Council – *Jow Morrison*. This should read *Joe Morrison*.

4/2017 RESOLVED (Eric Roberts/Judy MacFarlane) Carried

- (a) That the Finance Committee accept the Outgoing correspondence.

12 EXECUTIVE DIRECTORATE REPORTS

NIL

13 CORPORATE GOVERNANCE DIRECTORATE REPORTS

13.1 FINANCE - RGRC FINANCIAL REPORT AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2016

There was a PowerPoint presentation of the Financial Report.

The following errors were noted within the report:

- Background information stated 'Our bank balance as at 30th November is \$17.3M.' This should read 'Our bank balance as at 31st December is \$17.3M.'
- Pie graphs relating to Income by Account Category, Year to Date 2015-16 and Expenditure by Account Category, Year to Date 2015-16. Date for these graphs should read 2016-17.
- Table of Community wise Expenditure Summary as at 31 –December 2016. This should read 31 –December 2016.

5/2017 RESOLVED (Geoff Bishop/Eric Roberts) Carried

- (a) That Finance Committee receive and note financial reports as at 31st December 2016.**
- (b) That the Finance Committee invest \$8 million with various banks for 30 - 60 days in accordance with our investment policy.**

13.2 GRANTS: DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM AND CULTURE FACILITY AND CAPITAL EQUIPMENT PROGRAM - BORROLOOLA AFL OVAL UPGRADE

6/2017 RESOLVED (Judy MacFarlane/John Dalywater) Carried

- (a) That the Finance Committee accept the funding offer from the Department of Tourism and Cultural through the 2016-17 Facility and Capital Equipment Program for the upgrade of the Borroloola AFL Oval by CEO and Councillor signing, dating and affixing the Common Seal to two copies of the agreement.**

13.3 GRANTS: DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM AND CULTURE SPORT AND RECREATION DIVISION - 2016-17 REMOTE SPORT PROGRAM FUNDING OFFER

7/2017 RESOLVED (Judy MacFarlane/Kathy-Anne Numamurdiridi) Carried

- (a) That Council accept the funding offer from the Department of Tourism and Culture Sport and Recreation Division for the 2016-17 Remote Sport Program by CEO and a Councillor signing, dating and affixing the Common Seal to two copies of the agreement.**

14 COUNCIL & COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTORATE REPORT

14.1 AUSTRALIA DAY 2017

8/2017 RESOLVED (Judy MacFarlane/Eric Roberts) Carried

- (a) That Finance Committee receive and note the activities for each community for the 2017 Australia Day, celebrations.**

Morning tea break 9:52am

15 COMMERCIAL SERVICES DIRECTORATE REPORTS
NIL

16 GENERAL BUSINESS

16.1 LGANT CALL FOR POLICY AND ACTION MOTIONS

LGANT has called for Councils to submit motions to LGANT on issues for adoption as LGANT policy or actions for LGANT at the April 2017 General Meeting in Palmerston. LGANT will research and assess each policy or action proposal and if necessary discuss it with the proponent member council and the Executive will then later decide at one of its meetings whether to adopt the policy or not, or take the action or not, or to put it to a general meeting for decision.

Motions must be submitted by the 23 February 2017 using the provided template which includes:

1. What is your Motion?

Include the text of the motion (short paragraph or paragraphs – see LGANT policies as examples of how you could structure a motion at www.lgant.asn.au).

2. How is the motion relevant to Northern Territory Local Government?

Please provide comment here if the motion is proposed as a LGANT policy and explain why it should be and how it is relevant to the Northern Territory Local Government sector.

3. What are your key points in support of your motion?

Here you should provide some background about the issue, some evidence to support the motion and your text should be no more than 600 words.

4. Is there a Council Resolution in support of this motion? 0 Yes 0 No

5. Should the motion be LGANT policy? 0 Yes 0 No

6. Contact Information

Council:

Name:

Telephone:

Fax:

Email:

9/2017 **RESOLVED** (Judy MacFarlane/Kathy-Anne Numamurdiridi) **Carried**

- a) That the Finance Committee receive and note the LGANT call for policy and action motions.
- b) That the Finance Committee submit a motion on the impact of substance abuse on our current and future workforce.

16.2 LATE INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE - RE: UPDATE ON REMOTE HOUSING PROGRAM

Infoxpert ID #682575 Correspondence from Minister McCarthy received 19 December 2016

Minister McCarthy has provided an update on the remote housing program and how it will be implemented across the Northern Territory.

10/2017 **RESOLVED** (Judy MacFarlane/Eric Roberts) **Carried**

- a) That the Finance Committee receive and note the late incoming correspondence from Minister McCarthy with an update on the Remote Housing program.

16.3 LATE OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE - INVITATION TO CHIEF MINISTER TO ATTEND THE AUSTRALIAN CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY IN BORROLOOLA.

Infoxpert ID #684274 The CEO has invited the Chief Minister, Hon Michael Gunner MLA to attend and participate in the Australian Citizenship ceremony in Borroloola on the 26th January 2017.

11/2017 RESOLVED (Judy MacFarlane/Eric Roberts) Carried

- a) That the Finance Committee receive and note the late outgoing correspondence to the Chief Minister.

16.4 LATE OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE - INVITATION TO MINISTER MCCARTHY TO ATTEND THE AUSTRALIAN CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY IN BORROLOOLA.

Infoxpert ID #684277 The CEO has invited the Hon Gerald McCarthy MLA to attend the Australian Citizenship ceremony in Borroloola on the 26th January 2017.

12/2017 RESOLVED (Judy MacFarlane/ Geoff Bishop) Carried

- a) That the Finance Committee receive and note the late outgoing correspondence to Minister McCarthy.

16.5 LATE OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE - INVITATION TO MR MARK WAKELING TO ATTEND AUSTRALIAN CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY IN BORROLOOLA.

Infoxpert ID #684075 The CEO has invited Mr Mark Wakeling to attend the Australian Citizenship ceremony in Borroloola on the 26th January 2017.

13/2017 RESOLVED (Eric Roberts/John Dalywater) Carried

- a) That the Finance Committee receive and note the late outgoing correspondence to Mr Mark Wakeling.

16.6 LATE OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE - INVITATION TO MRS LESLEY WAKELING TO ATTEND AUSTRALIAN CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY IN BORROLOOLA.

Infoxpert# 684276 The CEO has invited Mrs Lesley Wakeling to attend the Australian Citizenship ceremony in Borroloola on the 26th January 2017.

14/2017 RESOLVED (Geoff Bishop / Kathy-Anne Numamurdirdi) Carried

- a) That the Finance Committee receive and note the late outgoing correspondence to Mrs Lesley Wakeling.

16.7 CORPORATE GOVERNANCE DIRECTORATE REPORT - GRANTS: DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANNING AND LOGISTICS REMOTE ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE FUND (REIF) - BARUNGA STORE HEAVY VEHICLE ROUTE

FUNDING OFFER

BACKGROUND

Council has been offered funding from the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics through the Remote Economic Infrastructure Fund to develop a Heavy Vehicle Route around Barunga's new store.

The project will see the development of a heavy vehicle route around the Barunga Outback Store, sealing of the store car park reducing dust issues and improving road safety for store users. The outback store will be building a new store (with Federal Government investment) and are unable to meet the costs of completing the heavy vehicle route and car park.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Offer = \$258,000.00 GST exclusive

15/2017 RESOLVED (Judy MacFarlane/Kathy-Anne Numamurdiridi) Carried

- (a) **That the Finance Committee accept the funding offer from the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics through the Remote Economic Infrastructure Fund for the development of a Heavy Vehicle Route around the new Barunga Store by CEO and Councillor signing, dating and affixing the Common Seal to two copies of the agreement.**

16.8 LOT 386 BORROLOOLA OWNERSHIP DOCUMENTS NAME CHANGE FROM SHIRE TO REGIONAL

The current ownership documents for the property of Lot 386 Borroloola are registered as Roper Gulf Shire Council and the name needs to be changed to Roper Gulf Regional Council.

16/2017 RESOLVED (Judy MacFarlane/Eric Roberts) Carried

- a) **The Finance Committee approve the changing of name from shire to Regional in the ownership Document by the Mayor and CEO signing and dating and affixing the Common Seal to the Ownership Documents for Lot 386 Borroloola.**

16.9 323 - OUTSTATIONS - RECRUITMENT TO CARRY OUT WORKS AS PER MESSPG #15/16-H023

Council received funding in June 2016 under the 2015-2016 Municipal and Essential Services Special Purpose Grant (MESSPG) program totalling \$ 411,736 (GST inclusive). Included in this sum is \$ 165,000 for Project # 15-16-H023 Werenbun – Structural repairs to larger houses to make safe.

Outstations have scheduled a start to the project and would like to use unspent grant funds to employ Werenbun residents as 2 x casual Technical Officers, to assist with the demolition works, anticipated to take no longer than 3 months. The 2 applicants are residents of Werenbun and are keen to contribute to the improvements and increased housing capacity for Werenbun.

There is capacity in the Regional Plan and Budget for 2 x Technical Officers for 8.00 fortnights. Our request is for the expense to be journalled to 324 – Outstations Capital Infrastructure instead of 323 – Outstations Municipal Services.

17/2017 RESOLVED (Geoff Bishop/John Dalywater) Carried

- a) The Finance Committee approve the recruitment of 2 x Technical Officers utilising unspent funds from MESSPG #15/16-H023.

17 CLOSED SESSION

DECISION TO MOVE TO CLOSED SESSION

18/2017 RESOLVED (Judy MacFarlane/Eric Roberts)

Carried

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:-

- 17.1 Minutes of Previous Closed Session Finance Committee Meeting** - *The report will be dealt with under Section 65(2) (ci) (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.*
- 17.2 Draft MOU, Schedule and Budget for Proposed sub-contract to Alawa Aboriginal Corporation** - *The report will be dealt with under Section 65(2) (ci) 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.*
- 17.3 Australia Day Award Winners** - *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 provided to the council on condition that it be keep confidential.*
- 17.4 Proposal to amend staffing structure for Territory Housing contract** - *The report will be dealt with under Section 65(2) (a) (cii) of the Local Government Act 2008 and Regulation 8 of the Local Government (Administration) Regulations 2008. It contains information about the employment of a particular individual as a member of the staff or possible member of the staff of the council that could, if publicly disclosed, cause prejudice to the individual; AND information that would, if publicly disclosed, be likely to prejudice the maintenance or administration of the law.*

RESUMPTION OF MEETING

19/2017 RESOLVED (Judy MacFarlane/John Dalywater)

Carried

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

17.1 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS CLOSED SESSION FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

20/2017 RESOLVED (Eric Roberts/John Dalywater)

Carried

- (a) That the Finance Committee receive and note the minutes of the Closed Session Finance Committee Meeting held on 23 November 2016.

17.2 DRAFT MOU, SCHEDULE AND BUDGET FOR PROPOSED SUB-CONTRACT TO ALAWA ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

201/2017 RESOLVED (Eric Roberts/John Dalywater)

Carried

- (a) That Finance Committee approve the proposed changes to the existing Alawa Aboriginal Corporation MOU and the addition of Annexure 7 relating to the schedule specific to the sub-contract of Night Patrol Services at Hodgson Downs.

17.3 AUSTRALIA DAY AWARD WINNERS

22/2017 RESOLVED (John Dalywater/Eric Roberts)

Carried

- (a) That Finance Committee accept the nominations for each community for the 2017 Australia Day Awards.

17.4 PROPOSAL TO AMEND STAFFING STRUCTURE FOR TERRITORY HOUSING CONTRACT

23/2017 RESOLVED (Eric Roberts/Kathy-Anne Numamurdiridi)

Carried

- (a) That Finance Committee approve the changes to the organisational structure and budget for the Territory Housing contract (Activity 220) with a review after 6 months.

CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting terminated at 11.44am.

THIS PAGE AND THE PRECEEDING 7 PAGES ARE THE MINUTES OF THE Finance Committee HELD ON Tuesday, 24 January 2017 AND CONFIRMED Wednesday 22 February 2017.

Mayor Tony Jack