



MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE ROPER GULF
REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT 2 CRAWFORD STREET, KATHERINE
ON THURSDAY, 27 APRIL 2017 AT 8:30AM

1. PRESENT/STAFF/GUESTS

1.1 Elected Members

Mayor Tony Jack
Councillor John Dalywater Via Telephone
Councillor Kathy Anne Numamurdirdi
Independent Geoff Bishop

1.2 Staff

Michael Berto, CEO
Greg Arnott, Director Corporate Governance
Sharon Hillen, Director Council and Community Services
Marc Gardner, Director Commercial Services
Amanda Haigh, Manager Governance and Corporate Planning (Minute Taker)
Bala Donepudi, Management Accountant

1.3 Guests

2. MEETING OPENED

Meeting opened at 9.00am

3. WELCOME TO COUNTRY

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

4. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

4.1 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

24/2017 RESOLVED (Kathy-Anne Numamurdirdi/Geoff Bishop) **Carried**

(a) **That the Finance Committee accept the apologies from Deputy Mayor Judy MacFarlane for this Finance Committee meeting 27 April 2017.**

5. CALL FOR ITEMS OF GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Animal Management Program Fees for Service Review – DCCS
2. Barunga Festival Request For Waiver Of Fees - *Mayor Tony Jack*

6. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

NIL

7. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest at this Finance Committee.

8. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

8.1 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

25/2017 RESOLVED (Geoff Bishop/John Dalywater) Carried

- (a) That the Finance Committee receive and note the minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on 24 January 2017.
- (b) 13.1 Amendment to 5/2017 (b) "That the Finance Committee invest \$8 million with NAB for 30 or 60 days" be changed to "That the Finance Committee invest \$8 million with various banks for 30 - 60 days in accordance with our investment policy".

9. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

9.1 ACTION LIST

26/2017 RESOLVED (Kathy-Anne Numamurdirdi/Geoff Bishop) Carried

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

10. INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE

10.1 INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE

Finance Committee request the acquittal from last years Community Grant and present back to Council at next OCM 31 March 2017.

27/2017 RESOLVED (Geoff Bishop/John Dalywater) Carried

- (a) That Committee accept the Incoming correspondence.

11. OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE

11.1 OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE

3/2017 RESOLVED (John Dalywater/Kathy-Anne Numamurdirdi) Carried

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

12. EXECUTIVE DIRECTORATE REPORTS

NIL

13. CORPORATE GOVERNANCE DIRECTORATE REPORTS

13.1 FINANCE - RGRC FINANCIAL REPORT AS AT 31 MARCH 2017

28/2017 RESOLVED (Kathy-Anne Numamurdirdi/Geoff Bishop) Carried

- (a) That Council receive and note financial reports as at 31st March 2017.

13.2 FINANCE - RGRC FIRST DRAFT BUDGET 2017-18

29/2017 RESOLVED (John Dalywater/Kathy-Anne Numamurdirdi) Carried

- (a) That Finance Committee receive and note the first draft budget 2017-18.

13.3 CAPITAL EXPENDITURE BUDGET AMENDMENT - VEHICLE REPLACEMENT

30/2017 RESOLVED (Geoff Bishop/Kathy-Anne Numamurdirdi) Carried

- (a) That the Finance Committee approves the amendment to Council's capital budget of \$60,000 to replace Toyota Prado CB21DD.
(b) That the Finance Committee approves the disposal of vehicle CB21DD by way of dealer trade in or auction.

14. COUNCIL & COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTORATE REPORT

14.1 FUNDING APPLICATION - BORROLOOLA GRIEF, LOSS AND TRAUMA TRAINING

34/2017 RESOLVED (Geoff Bishop/John Dalywater) Carried

- (a) That the Finance Committee accept the Funding Agreement for the Alcohol Action Initiative for a \$22,000 Grant for the Borroloola Grief, Loss and Trauma Training by affixing the seal and signing the agreement.

Morning Tea Break: 10.20am

Meeting Resume: 10.49am

14.2 NUMBULWAR COMBINED BUSINESS CENTRE

32/2017 RESOLVED (Geoff Bishop/John Dalywater) Carried

- (a) That the Finance Committee receive and note the update on the Proposed Numbulwar Combined Business Centre.

14.3 BORROLOOLA OVAL - HIRE AGREEMENT

335/2017 RESOLVED (Kathy-Anne Numamurdirdi/Geoff Bishop) Carried

- (a) That the Finance Committee discount the oval hire fees from \$18,000 to \$1,000 for the establishment year of the Nangala Project Ltd for the Moriarty Foundation Soccer Program in Borroloola.

ACTION: CEO obtain further clarification for a long term hire agreement and subsequent hire fees.

15. COMMERCIAL SERVICES DIRECTORATE REPORTS

15.1 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

34/2017 RESOLVED (John Dalywater/Kathy-Anne Numamurdirdi) Carried

- (a) That the Finance Committee receive and note Community Development Programme report.

16. GENERAL BUSINESS

16.1 ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM FEES FOR SERVICE REVIEW

BACKGROUND

Council's animal management program has two streams of activity:

1. RGRC Animal Health Program – Vet Visits and Education and Awareness
2. Animal Management – enforcement of By-laws, problem animals and mediation

The RGRC Animal Management Program has changed this financial year with the end of the three year contract with NT Vet Services finishing formally on the 30th of September 2016.

Council introduced a special rate to help subsidise the service and indirectly commence the culture of user pays. The following information is in the Regional Plan.

SPECIAL RATE - ANIMAL HEALTH MANAGEMENT: *With respect to every allotment of rateable land within the localities of Barunga, Beswick, Bulman, Jilkminggan, Eva Valley, Ngukurr, Numbulwar, Weemol that is used for residential purposes in the council assessment record, and for which the rural classification is not applicable, Council declared a Special rate "Animal Health Management" to assist with the implementation of Animal Management in the area, a flat rate of \$125.00 for each allotment. The total of \$62,000.00 will be collected with special rates and will solely be used for Animal Management.*

Council will deliver the following services under the Animal Health Management program:

DOGS

- Ivomec Injections
- Tick Sprays
- Contraceptive Injections
- Vaccinations
- Speys
- Castrates
- Euthanasia's

Local Authorities were consulted as to whether the Vet services were valued. Borroloola and Mataranka local authorities determined they did not want the service or have the special fee applied in their town, stating that pet owners should be responsible for their pet's health and that the by-laws would provide the control and management of dogs and other animals. All other remote housing areas such as Borroloola town camps and Outstations of Jodetluk, Werenbun and Mulgan camp may access the program for a fee for service.

The In-house Veterinarian – Doctor Samantha Phelan BVSC has commenced duties and has developed the proposed schedule for the vet visits in 2017. Dr Phelan is also working with various agencies to introduce a specific agreement for Outstations and Homelands i.e. Werenbun, Jodetluk and Mulgan Camp; Mabunji town Camps and Outstation; Robinson River and Minyerri.

Other interested NGO's have enquired about extending our service to their communities of interest prior to the 17/18 financial year. Council will ensure that the servicing of Roper Gulf clients are the first priority, however where possible will provide a fee for service options for other organisations in the region.

To allow these services to commence Council must first approve the fees and charges associated with the service. The proposed fees and charges relate to a bulk service for remote locations requiring several days of service and a unit fees for specific services.

Proposed Veterinary Fees 2017/18

	2017-18		
Description	GST Inc.	Unit	Comments
Veterinary Fees			
Town camps and outstations			
Daily rate	\$1,760.00	per day	
Half day rate	\$770.00	per half day	
Travel	\$2.00	per km	Includes sealed and unsealed from Katherine
Veterinary Fees			
Individual Fees for service - All charges are requiring animal registration fee be paid prior to service delivery. Concession holders receive a 30% discount on euthanasia and desexing surgeries (card must be sighted prior to delivery of			
Dog Spay	\$352.00	Per Spay	Additional \$70 for on heat, pregnant or dog over 30kg
Dog Castration	\$286.00	Per castration	
Pup Spay (Dog less than 5 months old)	\$247.50	Per Spay	
Pup castration (dog less then 5 months old)	\$209.00	Per castration	
Cat Spay	\$187.00	Per Spay	
Cat Castration	\$132.00	Per castration	
Cat Spay (Cat less then 5 months old)	\$165.00	Per Spay	
Cat castration (Cat less then 5 months old)	\$88.00	Per castration	
Contraceptive injections for females (Small Dog – Less then 10KG)	\$55.00	Per injection	
Contraceptive injections for females (Medium Dog – 10 to 25KG)	\$71.50	Per injection	
Contraceptive injections for females (Large Dog >25KG)	\$82.50	Per injection	
Dectomax Injection	\$22.00	Per dose	Covers ticks, scabies, intestinal worms and heartworm
Oral ivermectin	\$11.00	Per dose	Covers ticks, scabies, intestinal worms and heartworm
Parvovirus Vaccination	\$82.50	Per dose	Protech C3
Euthanasia (without burial)	\$99.00	Per animal	
Euthanasia (with burial)	\$187.00	Per animal	

ISSUES/OPTIONS/SWOT

Services provided in Borrooloola and Mataranka where Council By-laws are current will require the animal to be registered prior to service delivery.

Concession holders receive a 30% discount on euthanasia and desexing surgeries (card must be sighted prior to delivery of service).

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The previous model of service delivery which included a contracted vet service and the employment of an Animal Management Coordinator and their accommodation at each town visited had an annual cost of \$292,000.

The current model of the Animal Health Service costs \$226,000 annually minus the \$62,000 raised by the special rate the program expenditure balance is at \$164,000.

This is considerably less than the previous model of service delivery and has scope to extend the service beyond those residents covered by the Special Rate to raise further income which will subsequently subsidise this non-core service.

35/2017 RESOLVED (Geoff Bishop/Kathy-Anne Numamurdirdi)

Carried

(a) That the Finance Committee approve the following new charges for the Regional Animal Management Program User Pays System.

	2017-18		
Description	GST Inc.	Unit	Comments
Veterinary Fees			
Town camps and outstations			
Daily rate	\$1,760.00	per day	
Half day rate	\$770.00	per half day	
Travel	\$2.00	per km	Includes sealed and unsealed from Katherine
Veterinary Fees			
Individual Fees for service - All charges are requiring animal registration fee be paid prior to service delivery. Concession holders receive a 30% discount on euthanasia and desexing surgeries (card must be sighted prior to delivery of service).			
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Euthanasia (with burial)	\$187.00	Per animal	

16.2 BARUNGA FESTIVAL REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF FEES - Mayor Tony Jack

The Barunga Festival 2017 is upon us and the annual planning and development process is in full swing. Skinny Fish continue to manage this arts, culture and sporting event for the 32nd time.

This years event is from the 9-11 of June 2017.

ISSUES/OPTIONS/SWOT

Each year Council spends considerable funds preparing grounds and facilities for this national event and in the past have approved a waiver of all fees and charges associated with the Festival. The costs are considerable and several additional costs such as repairs and maintenance to toilet blocks which are only used during the event; RGRC staff overtime and power and water costs during the 3 day event are yet to be calculated.

Skinny Fish have been informed that Council will require them to contribute to these costs in the future and the at a waiver of fees can not be guaranteed. Skinny Fish can now work with these figures to inform their budget in 2018.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Facility	Time	Cost	Total Cost
Basketball Courts (Lot 330)	3 Days	\$300	\$900
Softball Field (Lot 324)	3 Days	\$300	\$900
Football Oval (Lot 202)	3 Days	\$300	\$900
Culture Park (Lot 326)	3 Days	\$300	\$900
Heritage Park (Lot 214)	3 Days	\$300	\$900
Training Centre (Lot 341)	3 Days	\$195	\$585
Grounds around Council Office (Lot198/199)	3 Days	\$195	\$585
Acoustic stage area by river	3 Days	\$195	\$585
Camping Grounds (3000 campers)	2 Nights	\$15	\$25,000
Camping Grounds (1000 campers)	1 Night	\$15	\$7,000
	Total Cost		\$38,255

36/2017 RESOLVED (Geoff Bishop/Kathy-Anne Numamurdirdi) carried

- (a) That Finance Committee receive and note the Barunga Festival Reports.
- (b) That Finance Committee do not endorse the waiving of fees of \$38,255 for Skinnyfish Pty Ltd for the Barunga Festival 2017.

Cr Tony Jack left the meeting, the time being 12:09 PM – meeting paused

Cr Tony Jack returned to the meeting, the time being 12:11 PM

17. CONFIDENTIAL SESSION

DECISION TO MOVE TO CONFIDENTIAL SESSION

37/2017 RESOLVED (Kathy-Anne Numamurdirdi/Geoff Bishop) Carried

Members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting of the Confidential Session and access to the correspondence and reports relating to the items considered during the course of the Confidential 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 Confidential 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 Council & Community Services Restructure Proposal - *The report will be dealt with under Section 65(2) (a) 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 (Discusses changes to existing staffing levels).*

RESUMPTION OF MEETING

40/2017 RESOLVED (Geoff Bishop/John Dalywater) Carried

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

17.1 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS CONFIDENTIAL SESSION FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

68/2017 RESOLVED (Geoff Bishop/Kathy-Anne Numamurdirdi) Carried

(a) **That the Finance Committee receive and note the minutes of the Confidential Session Finance Committee Meeting held on 24th January 2017.**

17.2 COUNCIL & COMMUNITY SERVICES RESTRUCTURE PROPOSAL

39/2017 RESOLVED (John Dalywater/Kathy-Anne Numamurdirdi) Carried

(a) **That the Finance Committee receive and note the proposed Council and Community Services restructure.**

(b) **That the Finance Committee endorses the restructure.**

CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting terminated at 12.36 pm.

THIS PAGE AND THE PRECEEDING 7 PAGES ARE THE MINUTES OF THE Finance Committee HELD ON Thursday, 27 April 2017 AND CONFIRMED Wednesday, 31 May 2017.

Mayor Tony Jack