

MINUTES OF THE HODGSON DOWNS LOCAL AUTHORITY MEETING OF THE
ROPER GULF REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE ALAWA BOARD
ROOM, MINYERRI ON WEDNESDAY, 12 APRIL 2017 AT 11:00AM

1. PRESENT/STAFF/GUESTS

1.1 Elected Members

Nil

1.2 Local Authority Members

Samuel Daylight (Chairperson)

James Nuggett

Johnathon Walla

Clive Roberts

Ken Muggeridge

1.3 Staff

Marc Gardner, Director Commercial Services

Jerry Amato, Procurement Coordinator

David Calleja, Local Authority Support Coordinator (Minute Taker)

1.4 Guests

Nat Knapp, Department of Housing and Community Development

Solomon Gaturu, Department of Housing and Community Development

Anthony Burrige, Department of Housing and Community Development

2. MEETING OPENED

The PROVISIONAL meeting was opened at 11.04am.

3. WELCOME TO COUNTRY

Chairperson Samuel Daylight welcomed members, staff and guests 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 (James Nugget/Clive Roberts)

- (a) That the Hodgson Downs Local Authority accept the apologies of Deputy Mayor Judy McFarlane and Councillor Annabelle Daylight for the Hodgson Downs Local Authority Meeting 12th April 2017.

5. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

5.1 PREVIOUS MINUTES

Nat Knapp provided an update on the issue of rats existing in some houses, and would provide a further update following consultation with Territory Housing.

(a) This meeting was a Provisional meeting there the minutes of the Hodgson Downs Local Authority Meeting held on Wednesday 1st February 2017 were not accepted.

6. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest at this Hodgson Downs Local Authority meeting.

7. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

7.1 ACTION LIST

Date	Agenda Item #	Item Description	Responsible Person	Status	Status Comments – Completion Date
		Installation of dedicated phone line to Katherine office of Territory Housing	Marc Gardner	Ongoing	12.04.2017: Scheduled installation date 27 April 2017
		Waste Management Tip Location		Ongoing	12.04.2017: Waste Management Consultant to advise on tip location. Further consultation on Waste Collection and Fees required. Community input sought on fee structure and collection method.
		Kewulyi Outstation Cemetery		Ongoing	12.04.2017: A new fence is to be erected. Sandy ground and drilling holes for posts are issues for post and fence stability.
		Alcohol Management Plan Update	Department Of Prime Minister and Cabinet (PMC)	Ongoing	12.04.2017: A request is to be made to the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (PMC) for a formal statement outlining the Federal and Northern Territory Governments' stance on an

					Alcohol Management Plan. Ken Muggeridge to write to the Mayor.
		Services Report		Ongoing	12.04.2017: Costs Assessment – Further Capital Works are in progress. Await further decision on how to allocate funding.
		Community Night Patrol		Ongoing	12.04.2017: Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding of commencement of Community Night Patrol from 1 st May 2017.
		Regional Plan 2016-17		Ongoing	12.04.2017: No discussion regarding 2016-17 Regional Plan. Noted that Alawa Aboriginal Corporation to await outcome of funding for 2017-18.
		Animal Management and Rubbish Disposal Fee		Ongoing	12.04.2017: Nathan Knapp advised that the Local Authority will be able to access vet upon implementation of fees as part of rates. Vet visit due in April, further details to be obtained.
		Lease Status at Minyerri		Ongoing	12.04.2017: Nathan Knapp advised that the lease has been completed and boundaries have been drawn.
		Pests and Vermin		Ongoing	12.04.2017: Marc Gardner advised that he will follow up on pests and vermin and update.
		Sunrise Health		Ongoing	12.04.2017: Samuel Daylight advised that the project is near

					completion and clinic is expected to open in the next few months.
		Sport and Recreational Programs		Ongoing	12.04.2017: Marc Gardner advised that Sharon Hillen is to report back to next Local Authority Meeting regarding funding.

25/2017 RESOLVED (Jonathon Walla/Ken Muggeridge)

(a) That the Hodgson Downs Local Authority receive and note the Action List.

8. INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE
NIL

9. OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE
NIL

10. CALL FOR ITEMS OF OTHER BUSINESS

11. GENERAL BUSINESS

11.1 ELECTED MEMBER REPORT

The meeting noted apologies from Deputy Mayor Judy McFarlane and Cr Daylight for their absence.

Marc Gardner provided an update regarding expression of interest to dispose of transportable building, Lot 297A in Ngukurr.

Council submission to Local Government Association of Northern Territory (LGANT) calling for investigation of financial cost of Substance Abuse on current and future capacity of council workforce in the Northern Territory. Submission received and noted.

26/2017 RESOLVED (Ken Muggeridge/Jonathon Walla)

(a) That the Hodgson Downs Local Authority receive and note the verbal Elected Member Report.

11.2 COUNCIL SERVICES REPORT - KEN MUGGERIDGE

Ken Muggeridge raised the issue concerning the future of Community Development Program (CDP).

Ken provided the following CDP updates:

- Female participants are painting the local school
- Cut rubbish dump accumulated from the New Year to be shifted in the dry season
- A \$100,000 loan application has been received from the Northern Territory Government's Work Stimulus Package. Ken advised that there are currently 42 upgrades for housing, and between 6 and 18 new houses are earmarked, with a final number to be decided.
- Gravel has been brought in to smooth the road near outstations. Positive feedback has been received about the extra work.
- Local issues such as Crime Prevention Support, roads and dogs in the community were raised.

27/2017 RESOLVED (James Nuggett/Clive Roberts)

- (a) **That the Hodgson Downs Local Authority receive and note the verbal report on Hodgson Downs Council Services.**

11.3 NEW AND REVIEWED POLICIES

Marc Gardner advised of the new and updated reviewed policy updates available for viewing online at the Roper Gulf Regional Council website:

- Register Of Interests Policy
- Complaints Policy

Jerry Amato advised that the policies are available in hard copy format.

28/2017 RESOLVED (Ken Muggeridge/Clive Roberts)

- (a) **That the Hodgson Downs Local Authority receive and note the new and reviewed policies approved by Council.**

11.4 GOVERNANCE REPORT - COMPLAINTS REGISTER

No updates to the complaints register.

29/2017 RESOLVED (Ken Muggeridge/Clive Roberts)

- (a) **That the Hodgson Downs Local Authority receive and note the Complaints Register.**

11.5 GOVERNANCE REPORT - LOCAL AUTHORITY PROJECT FUNDING UPDATE

Hodgson Downs received \$68,000 in 2016-17. A total of \$204,120 were used in roads upgrade between 2014-15 and 2016-17 financial years.

30/2017 RESOLVED (Ken Muggeridge/James Nuggett)

- (a) **That the Hodgson Downs Local Authority receive and note the report on the Local Authority Project funding.**

11.6 TOWN PRIORITIES 2017-2018

Hodgson Downs to consider 2017-18 town priorities. Members spoke about the following issues identified in the 2016-17 regional plan, and the level of priority:

- More new housing to decrease crowding
- Morgue – consider cultural issues for burial
- Roads maintenance – schedule, spending and upgrades
- Safe houses for men and women. A note was made about the absence of a safe house for women and children.
- Solar lighting – possibility of installation as part of CDP. Factors affecting design include costs, height, durability, efficiency and approved manufacturers. Discussion about led solar lighting focussed on the costs replacing led battery and electric street light.
- Public pay phone – potentially lower priority with the proposed installation of a mobile phone tower.
- Sports and Recreation Sports Oval – Community encouraged to apply for Local Government-specific grant applications.

No motion passed to decide on 2017-18 Town Priorities.

11.7 HOUSING UPDATE

Nat Knapp advised that 10 housing upgrades have been identified, and that local families have access to an Indigenous language interpreter assisting a Tenancy Officer.

31/2017 RESOLVED (Clive Roberts/Ken Muggeridge)

- (a) **That the Hodgson Downs Local Authority receive and note the update on housing in Hodgson Downs.**

OTHER BUSINESS

12.1 CEMETERY UPDATE

Nat Knapp from the Department of Housing and Community Development gave a brief overview of the proposed Cemeteries Law. Solomon Gaturu spoke to LA members how the department would consult with the community on identifying graves, cultural sensitivities to consider, cemetery registration process, and naming rights.

Community elders also wish to show DHCD representatives on the location of traditional Indigenous sites, including an old cemetery identified near the river and a cemetery on Eley Station.

There is a CDP employee who contacts family members and keeps a record of graves, though no official register exists.

Alawa Aboriginal Corporation advised that it has a Cemetery Register and that its grounds are well maintained, and indicated it will work with the DHCD to comply with guidelines under the Cemetery Act.

RECOMMENDATION

- (a) **That Hodgson Downs Local Authority receive and note the update on the Cemetery Update.**

12.2 TELSTRA MOBILE FACILITIES

Details of the proposed mobile phone tower in Minyerri were made available, with a letter of advice and poster to be displayed for community viewing.

32/2017 RESOLVED (James Nugget/Ken Muggeridge)

- (a) That the Hodgson Downs Local Authority receive and note the update on Telstra Mobile Facilities in Hodgson Downs.**

12.3 POWER AND WATER CORPORATION ACTIVITIES IN MINYERRI

Nil, the Power and Water Corporation did not have a representative at the meeting.

CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting terminated at 12.38pm.

THIS PAGE AND THE PRECEEDING 6 PAGES ARE THE MINUTES OF THE Hodgson Downs Local Authority Meeting HELD ON Wednesday, 12 April 2017 AND CONFIRMED Thursday, 10 August 2017.

Chairperson