



MINUTES
BUDGET MEETING
16 JUNE, 2015

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Leigh Ashford', written in a cursive style.

Signed: Leigh Ashford Chief Executive Officer

MINUTES

BUDGET MEETING

TO BE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, BATCHELOR

ON TUESDAY 16TH JUNE, 2015 AT 6.00PM

President of the Shire Council Andrew Turner declared the meeting open at 6.06pm and welcomed all in attendance.

1 PERSONS PRESENT

ELECTED MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillor	President Andrew Turner
Councillor	Vice President Bruce Jones arrived 6.20pm
Councillor	Sue Bulmer
Councillor	Max Corliss
Councillor	Dave Gray
Councillor	Ewan Crook

STAFF PRESENT

Chief Executive Officer	Leigh Ashford
Melissa Kerr	Finance Manager
Aleyshia Kim	Senior Administration Officer

VISITORS PRESENT

2 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Applicant:	N/A
Location/Address:	N/A
File Ref:	N/A
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Date:	9th June, 2015
Author:	Leigh Ashford, Chief Executive Officer
Attachments:	Nil

SUMMARY

This report is to table, for Council's record, any apologies and requests for leave of absence received from Elected Members for the Budget Meeting held 16th June, 2015.

BACKGROUND

Not applicable.

COMMENT

Council can choose to accept the apologies or requests for leave of absence as presented, or not accept them. Apologies or requests for leave of absence that are not accepted by Council will be recorded as absence without notice.

CONSULTATION

Not applicable.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

As per the Local Government Act s.39 (1) A person ceases to hold office as a member of a council if the person:
(d) is absent, without permission of the council, from 2 consecutive ordinary meetings of the council.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Simple majority

NOTE

There are no apologies of absence for the Budget Meeting held 16th June, 2015.

3 DECLARATION OF INTEREST OF MEMBERS OR STAFF

Applicant:	N/A
Location/Address:	N/A
File Ref:	N/A
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Date:	9th June, 2015
Author:	Leigh Ashford, Chief Executive Officer
Attachments:	Nil

SUMMARY

Elected Members are required to disclose an interest in a matter under consideration by Council at a meeting of the Council or a meeting of a Council committee by:

- 1) In the case of a matter featured in an officer's report or written Minutes item by disclosing the interest to the Council by disclosure as soon as possible after the matter is raised
- 2) In the case of a matter raised in general debate or by any means other than the printed Minutes of the Council by disclosure as soon as possible after the matter is raised. Under disclosure, the Member must abide by the decision of Council on whether he/ she shall remain in the Chambers and/ or take part in the vote on the issue. The council may elect to allow the Member to provide further and better particulars of the interest prior to requesting him/ her to leave the Chambers.

Staff Members of the Council are required to disclose an interest in a matter at any time at which they are required to act or exercise their delegate authority in relation to the matter. Upon disclosure the Staff Member is not to act or exercise his or her delegated authority unless the Council expressly directs him or her to do so.

BACKGROUND

Not applicable.

COMMENT

Not applicable.

CONSULTATION

Not applicable.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

Local Government Act s73 & s74 (Elected Members).

Local Government Act (2008) s107 Conflict of interest (Staff Members).

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Conflict of Interest – Code of Conduct.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Simple majority

NOTE

There are no declarations of interest for the Budget Meeting held 16th June, 2015.

4. STRATEGIC PLAN AND ANNUAL SHIRE PLAN

Applicant:	N/A
Location/Address:	N/A
File Ref:	N/A
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Date:	9th June, 2015
Author:	Leigh Ashford, Chief Executive Officer
Attachment:	Strategic Plan 2015-2020 & Annual Plan 2015/16

SUMMARY

The current Strategic and Annual Shire Plan has been reviewed in accordance with the legislation. The community has been requested to comment on the existing Strategic Plan and these comments have been taken into consideration. The Strategic Plan continues to reflect the goals, objectives and aspirations of the community that were developed in 2013. It has been updated to include the changes in the operating environment over the last 12 months.

The proposed Annual Shire Plan incorporates the changes to the Strategic Plan, Service Delivery Plan, Long Term Financial Plan, the requirements in the Act and the draft Budget. Ten Year works plans are also included. It should be noted that due to the dynamic nature of the local government environment and the lack of long term commitments from the Territory and Federal Governments, these documents lose their relevance quickly. They need constant review and they generally require major changes annually.

BACKGROUND

The Local Government Act requires Council to have a Shire Plan for its area. This must be developed or revised at least once during the Council's Term of Office. The Plan must contain the following:

- Service Delivery Plan
- Budget
- Include or reference the Strategic Plan
- Long Term Financial Plan
- Constitutional arrangements currently in force
- Opportunities and challenges
- Possible changes to the Administrative and Regulatory framework
- Possibilities for improving local government services
- Performance indicators

Council is also required to review the Shire Plan between 1 April and 31 July annually. It is required to adopt it and forward to the Department prior to 31 July 2015.

Council is required to prepare a draft of the plan and publish a notice in a newspaper circulating in the area inviting submissions on the draft plan for a period of 21 days. It must make revisions to the draft it considers appropriate in light of the submissions prior to adopting the Plan

Council can consider the Annual Budget separately to the Shire Plan and its adoption amends the last version of the Shire Plan.

COMMENT

Not applicable.

CONSULTATION

Invitation to comment through the Council website and newsletter.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

Local Government Act 22,23 & 24

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Provides the guidance document for Council's decision making throughout the year.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Adoption of the budget.

RESOLUTION 16/06/2015/001

Council directs the CEO to advertise the Strategic Plan and Annual Shire Plan as presented for comment and prepare a report for adoption at the July Council meeting.

Moved: Clr. Gray

Seconded: Clr. Corliss

5/5

Clr. Jones arrived at 6:20pm

5. 2014/15 DRAFT BUDGET

Applicant:	N/A
Location/Address:	N/A
File Ref:	N/A
Disclosure of Interest:	Nil
Date:	9th June, 2015
Author:	Leigh Ashford, Chief Executive Officer
Attachment:	Draft Budget 2015/16 and Notes

SUMMARY

The Strategic Plan and Annual Plan can only play their intended role if they are linked to the Annual Budget. The draft budget for the 2014/15 financial year is one of the most important documents that Councils consider each year. It provides the snapshot at this time about how Council considers it will generate income and account for its service programs that it wishes to undertake throughout the year.

I urge you to read the information and the notes annexed to the draft budget. If you have any queries and or questions please feel free to contact either Mrs Melissa Kerr, or myself for the required information.

The adoption of the Budget operates to amend the Annual Shire Plan so that it conforms with the most recent text of the Council's Budget.

COMMENT

Whilst the annual budget process rigorously looks at the income and expenses involved in the operations it is based on a number of assumptions. In a dynamic world the accuracy of the assumptions varies and often they are out of Council's control. The reduced allocation of the Operational Grant from the NT Government last year had a significant impact on the 2013/14 Annual Service Delivery Plan..

The current budget does not extend beyond 30 June 2015. The adoption of a new budget should be in place prior to the completion of the existing budget. The budget becomes part of the current Shire Plan. The new Shire Plan takes effect when Council adopts it following the regulatory community consultation phase. This should occur at the July meeting. The Department is notified prior to 31 July 2014.

CONSULTATION

Community meetings May

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT

Local Government Act Section 24.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Provides the guidance document for Council's decision making throughout the year.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Adoption of the budget 2015/16

RESOLUTION 16/06/2015/002

That Council adopt the 2015/16 budget with the amendments listed, Councillor Allowances, Rates Declaration, and the 2015/16 Fees and Charges.

Moved: Clr. Crook

Seconded: Clr. Gray

5/1

Against: Clr. Bulmer

6. MEETING CLOSED

The meeting closed at 8:15pm