

MINUTES

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

10.00 AM

22 OCTOBER 2014

PEPPIMENARTI COUNCIL OFFICE

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Signed: Chief Executive Officer

MINUTES

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD AT THE PEPPIMENARTI COUNCIL OFFICE

ON 22nd OCTOBER 2014

COMMENCING AT 10.00AM

Acting Mayor of the West Daly Regional Council Andrew Brown declared the meeting open at 10.00 am and welcomed all in attendance.

This meeting did not meet quorum requirements and so the meeting was rescheduled to Wednesday 19th November 2014.

PERSONS PRESENT

Elected members and staff were presented with information from persons present regarding their various roles and their interaction with West Daly Regional Council. Further general discussions took place following this amongst all persons present.

ELECTED MEMBERS PRESENT

Deputy Mayor	Andrew Brown
Councillor	Wally Minjin
Councillor	Mark Martin

STAFF PRESENT

Chief Executive Officer	Glenda Teede
Regional Service Manager Palumpa	Fred Graham
Regional Service Manager Peppimenarti	Rose Peckham
Local Authority Coordinator	Louise Beilby
Executive Assistant – Darwin	Fiona Carberry
Executive Assistant – Wadeye	Tahlia Cleary

PERSONS PRESENT

<i>Homelands & Outstations Department of Community Services</i>	<i>Clayton McCudden</i>
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<i>Executive Director, Remote Program Office Department of Community Services</i>	<i>Peter Campos</i>
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Mr McCudden & Mr Campos spoke to the group about Peter Curwen-Walker's Homelands report that he had compiled. They were very impressed with the content and has been working on a review of the Homelands projects since. The agreement between Homelands & Outstations and West Daly Regional Council has not yet been signed, however there was confirmation that there is HEA funding available for repairs and maintenance on housing in the Outstations. In order for community members to apply for the funding, they must submit an application in writing. Successful applications can receive up to \$5,200, however there is a timeframe for the work to be completed in. Funding has already been approved for repairs to fences in two Outstations.

Discussions regarding Homelands being a shared responsibility as the house belongs to its occupiers, not the NT Government took place. Homelands Programs support areas where people live, not where people do not live – these areas are supported by other stakeholders. There is a pool of funding available for housing maintenance, but this funding is tied – more houses reduce the amount of funding available for each house. If additional homelands are identified as meeting the criteria set out in the funding agreement, then further funds will be sourced, rather than spreading the current funding over more houses.

Mr Campos confirmed that he manages the Asbestos Removal program. Remote Housing is removing asbestos from Homelands. The Asbestos Removal program is removing asbestos from community buildings, not Homelands and only accredited and licenced contractors can be used. Asbestos can only be dumped in licenced tips in Darwin, Alice Springs or Katherine.

Director of Regional Governance

Department of Local Government & Regions

David Willing

Acting Director Strategic Projects and Regions

Department of Local Government & Regions

Frank Crawley

Director Local Government Financial Sustainability

Department of Local Government & Regions

Meeta Ramkumar

Mr Willing, Mr Crawley and Ms Ramkumar reported to West Daly Regional Council about various finance issues. On the 29th September, DLGR reviewed the current WDRC draft budget. The deficit budget is expected to last for 2 years, with staffing being the biggest cost. Leave entitlements that transferred across from VDRC to WDRC will provide approximately \$700k to the budget. The \$1m capital grant can be reprioritised and WDRC may access the SPG to get a favourable outcome. The NT Operational budget funding of \$1.3m is recurrent.

VDRC did a stocktake and a valuation on the asset register, utilising Tech 1. WDRC should be able to use Tech 1 in the same manner to record assets. The WDRC asset register needs to be reviewed along with the condition report, and funding may be required to establish an accurate assessment of the assets. It was raised that there was an issue around asset split from VDRC in that housing and buildings within the WDRC boundary would transfer across to WDRC ownership. Homelands & Outstation assets were to be negotiated; plant and equipment was also allocated by region and vehicle transfers should show in the asset listing. The \$1m capital grant was to fill the shortfall, which Ms Ramkumar worked with the former Acting CEO, Lee Farrell, on.

Discussions regarding the Councilbiz SLA also took place. It was noted that the transition committee recommended a 12 month contract with Councilbiz, which can then be reviewed and WDRC can move forward as required. The SLA needs to be finalised with Councilbiz as there is still no formal agreement in place. The IT provision is separate to processing – there is \$150k available for IT and \$485k allocated to processing.

A fencing program is currently being undertaken amongst the communities, with \$550k to cover approximately 50 houses. Originally, funding of \$1.98m was provided for 132 houses in Peppimenarti and Palumpa. Palumpa has not received any fencing, and it will be looked into as to whether the 82 houses have been delivered on. Equipment funded by the grant should stay with the grant.

Meeting closed at 2:30 pm.

NEXT MEETING

The next Ordinary General Meeting of West Daly Regional Council will be held at Wadeye on Wednesday 19 November 2014 with a briefing on 18 November.