

PRESENT

Finance Committee Members

Harold Wilson	Mayor
Andrew Brown	Deputy Mayor (via telephone link up)
Ralph Narburup	Councillor

Staff

Ramesh Pudasaini	Acting Deputy CEO
Rebecca Purser	Governance Officer

Guests

Mark Martin	Councillor
Abdus Sattar	Local Government Division, Department of Housing and Community Development
Omor Robin	Local Government Division, Department of Housing and Community Development

APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Members - Nil apologies received – all members present
Officers – Acting CEO

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST – COUNCILLORS AND STAFF

There were no declarations of interest at this Finance Committee Meeting.

CALL FOR ITEMS OF GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil calls for general business received.

CORRESPONDENCE IN & OUT

Nil

REPORTS TO COUNCIL REPORTS

1) Confirmation of Minutes

00 **Motion:**

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- 1. That Council receives and notes the minutes of the meeting held on 21 October 2016 and confirms that they are a true and correct record.**

Moved: Cr. Narburup
Seconded: Cr. Brown
Resolution: Unanimously

2) Financial Report

Acting Deputy CEO/Senior Financial Consultant (ADCEO) discussed the financials for West Daly Regional Council for the January 2017 period.

- \$6.2 million in the bank. This has increased \$800,000 since December 2016.
- \$3.5 million is in short term deposit for higher interest rate.

Mayor Wilson queried the amount of \$22,000 monthly average for Councillors' expenses and was advised by ADCEO that this includes base allowance, meeting allowances, electoral allowances, travel & accommodation expenses and is quite reasonable.

Current ratio is good and this will gradually go down as Council's untied grants received in advance will be used during the period.

Receivables and Debtors.

- Prepayments General - is for insurance and fringe benefits tax.
- Receivables Others - includes security for Parap Office, GST and Workers Compensation.

Trade Debtors and Age Analysis.

- Over 90 days is insurance company regarding Workers Compensation Insurance and this has been outstanding since March 2016. HR Advisor has been requested to inquire with the insurance company as to expected payment date and provide a report at the next meeting.

Creditors and Payables.

- Trades relates to s.19 Leases. We have paid the rent for this year. For previous years we have asked NLC for a payment plan. We are waiting for their response regarding approval of a payment plan. NLC have advised that they are waiting to talk to the TO's in regards to payment plan. WDRC will need to make a decision before the end of the financial year. Mayor Wilson advised that he will contact NLC as himself and Clr. Martin are the Traditional Owners for Peppimenarti.

Query was raised as to why we are so far behind in the payment. Councillors were advised that when the leases were signed the rental payments were backdated. We are in a better situation than other councils as WDRC only backdated to 2014, other councils have numerous years to pay back and they are under a long term payment plan.

- Creditors Account over 90 days relates to the s.19 Leases.

Council received \$12.5 million in revenue. Core revenue is \$7.47 million, Agency revenue is \$4.35 million and internal income is \$333,000.

Council's total expenditure til January 2017 is \$7.2 million. \$5.8 million of this was in operating expenses and \$1.4 was unfunded depreciation expenses.

Mayor Wilson queried the Untied Expenses Program : CI – Council Services. ADCEO

provided explanation that this was purely staff salary for waste management, parks and garden, roads and civil services. Operational expenses are split according to the program.

Tied Expenses Fund are government funded. Fund code 720 – NT Jobs Package (outstations – essential services) was discussed and the question was asked as to how many indigenous people are employed under this fund and are there any apprenticeships or incentives for community members in place. Fund code 703 – NTG Indigenous Development Jobs Funding - Mayor Wilson said that we need to close the gap for indigenous workers. The total we receive is up to \$592,000 and there is no limit as to the number of indigenous employees working for core activities but grants is reimbursement basis with maximum of \$592,000.

It was requested that the HR Officer provide a report to Council regarding the number of indigenous employees under this fund and any traineeships/apprenticeships that are in place.

Through the Chair Abdus Sattar queried the total income on page 25. He suggested that we should have another column stating yearly amount. ADCEO advised the Committee that our monthly report is sent out to each Community Services Manager showing the annual budget funds and monthly budget expenditure for projects.

Under Local Authority report it states the total balance of funding left for the financial year which will need to be utilised so that we do not have to give it back to the Department of Local Government. Funded expenses to date is detailed on pages 28 and 29 of the agenda for each community.

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Motion:

1. That the Finance Committee receives the Financial Report for January 2017.

Moved: Cr. Brown
Seconded: Cr. Narburup
Resolution: Unanimously

3) ToR - Finance Committee and Audit and Risk Committee

Compliance stated that we are required to have Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Finance and Audit Committees. Attached is the draft TOR for the committee's review and comment. It will then be presented at the next Ordinary Council meeting for approval and adoption.

The Department of Local Government and Compliance has reviewed the TOR also and had three suggested changes:

Audit and Risk Committee TOR:-

1. Page 1 under the heading "Authority", bullet point 4 should read "Obtain external legal or other professional advice (with Council's approval) as considered necessary to meet its responsibilities". This is so that it is clear that it is with Council's approval only should the need for professional or

legal advice be required.

2. Page 3 under the heading "Review" – the review should be biennial, not annually.

Finance Committee TOR

3. Point 13 – "Approve the awarding of any tenders or major contracts" should have the words "up to \$500,000" inserted at the end. Anything over that amount will need to go to Council for approval.

00 **Motion:**

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1. **That the committee reviewed the ToR and recommended for Council's review.**

Moved: Cr. Narburup
Seconded: Cr. Brown
Resolution: Unanimously

LATE ITEM

4) **FACE Funding Agreement – Resealing Wadeye Basketball**

The community of Wadeye currently have four really good basketball courts. It was decided that the grant received from the department be declined.

00 **Motion:**

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1. **That the Finance Committee decline the grant received from the Northern Territory Department of Tourism and Culture for the resealing of the basketball court at Wadeye.**

Moved: Cr. Brown
Seconded: Cr. Narburup
Resolution: Unanimously

The meeting terminated at 11:07am.

THIS PAGE AND THE PRECEEDING 3 PAGES ARE THE MINUTES OF THE Meeting of the Finance Committee HELD ON Wednesday, 22 February 2017 AND CONFIRMED _____