

The following document is the minutes of the Council and Committee Meetings held on Thursday, 2 February 2006. These minutes are subject to confirmation as to their accuracy at the next meeting to be held on 16 February 2006 and therefore subject to change. Please refer to the minutes of the meeting of 16 February 2006 for confirmation.



**COFFS HARBOUR CITY COUNCIL**

**ORDINARY MEETING**

**(CITY SERVICES COMMITTEE)**

**COUNCIL CHAMBER  
COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION BUILDING  
COFF AND CASTLE STREETS, COFFS HARBOUR**

**2 FEBRUARY 2006**

**Commencing at the conclusion of  
City Business Units Committee**

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**COFFS HARBOUR CITY COUNCIL**

**ORDINARY MEETING**

**(CITY SERVICES COMMITTEE)**

**2 FEBRUARY 2006**

**Present:** Councillors K Rhoades (Mayor), J Bonfield, D Featherstone, I Hogbin, C Joass, R McKelvey, I Ovens, W Palmer, and G Smithers.

**Staff:** General Manager, Director of City Services (Acting), Director of Planning, Environment & Development (Acting), Director of Corporate Services, Director of City Business Units and Executive Assistant

The meeting commenced at 5.47pm with the Mayor, Cr K Rhoades in the chair.

The Mayor requested a motion to adjourn the Ordinary meeting and resolve into the City Services Committee meeting.

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**CITY SERVICES COMMITTEE**

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- 6** **RESOLVED** (Palmer/Joass) that the Ordinary Meeting of Council be adjourned and Council now resolve into the City Services Committee meeting, the time being 5.47pm.

The Mayor invited Councillor Smithers to chair the City Services Committee meeting.

## CITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT REPORTS

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### S1 "ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY" POLICY

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To recommend to Council a policy for standardising wording for "Acknowledgement of Country and Elders" statements.

**EN1 RECOMMENDED** (Rhoades/Joass) that at the commencement of appropriate formal proceedings/functions acknowledgement is made of the traditional custodians of the land.

The wording for an Aboriginal person who is not a traditional resident of the land where the event is being held is:

*"I am (name) an Aboriginal person from (tribe/clan) and I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the Gumbaynggir land that we are meeting on today. I also acknowledge our/the Elders, particularly those attending today's event."*

The wording for a non-Aboriginal person is:

*"I would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the Gumbaynggir land that we are meeting on today, and those that have gone before us and I also acknowledge the Elders, particularly those attending today's event."*

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### S2 YANDAARRA ABORIGINAL CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE POWERS AND DUTIES, CODE OF MEETING PRACTICE AND CONSTITUTION

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To recommend to Council the adoption of revised Powers and Duties, Code of Meeting Practice and Constitution of the Yandaarra Aboriginal Consultative Committee.

**EN2 RECOMMENDED** (Palmer/McKelvey) that Council adopt the Yandaarra Aboriginal Consultative Committee's reviewed and updated:

- Powers and Duties
- Code of Meeting Practice
- Constitution

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### **S3 WORKS BRANCH REPORT**

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To advise Council of the progress of construction and maintenance programs undertaken by Works Branch to 31 December, 2005.

**EN3 RECOMMENDED** (Joass/Palmer) that Council:-

1. Notes the progress report on construction and maintenance works undertaken by Works Branch up to 31 December, 2005.
2. Notes the individual program expenditures are being monitored and are within the allocated 2005/2006 budget.

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### **S4 CORAMBA / NANA GLEN : EFFLUENT DISPOSAL**

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To report to Council on the current status of effluent disposal for the villages of Coramba and Nana Glena and options available to Council.

**EN4 RECOMMENDED** (Hogbin/McKelvey) that staff report back to Council with an expanded report to include further options available to those properties with pump-outs.

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### **S5 COFFS HARBOUR WATER REPORT SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER 2005**

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Information on maintenance, operation and construction activities for the three month period September to December 2005 for the Water Supply Fund.

**EN5 RECOMMENDED** (Palmer/Joass):

1. That the report on Coffs Harbour Water maintenance and operation activities for the three month period October to December 2005 be noted.
2. That the average daily consumption for the September quarter of 16.7 ML/day, total abstraction for the quarter from Cochranes Pool of 668.2 ML, total inflow to Karangi Dam from Regional Water Supply of 823.2 ML, total consumption for the quarter of 1546.5 ML and Karangi Dam storage level of 98.9% on 31 December 2005 be noted.

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## CONCLUSION OF MEETING

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The Chairman advised that the business of the City Services Committee was concluded and invited the Mayor to resume the chair.

The Mayor resumed chairmanship of the meeting at 6.00pm.

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## OPEN COUNCIL

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The Mayor requested a motion to close the Committee meeting and move into Open Council.

- EN6** **RECOMMENDED** (Hogbin/Joass) that the Committee now move into Open Council.

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## ADOPTION OF CITY SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT

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- 7** **RESOLVED** (Ovens/Hogbin) that the recommendations of the City Services Committee meeting be received and adopted.

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## REQUESTS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

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- 8** **RESOLVED** (Palmer/Joass) that Cr Ovens be granted leave of absence from Council from on 16 February 2006.

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## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

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### 1. Coffs Creek - Drainage

Councillor Palmer questioned whether the drains in the Coffs Creek/Robin Street area could be cleared as there is some regrowth of bushes in the drains and quite a collection of rubbish from the last rain event.

## **2. Sewer at Corindi Beach**

Councillor Palmer asked whether, as further expansion of Corindi Beach is governed by sewer connections, if all sewer would be brought back to Woolgoolga Reclamation Plant or whether there would be other sewer connections independent of the system that we already have to allow further development of Corindi Beach,.

The Director of City Services (Acting) advised that the current system has a capacity of approximately 1,500EP but approvals out there now would take us up to that population. Mr Newton advised that it was proposed to construct a rising main from Pump Station 3 to Darlington Park pump station which would allow for another 150 connections to properties in that area and should sustain growth in area until approx 2035.

## **3. Tourism Association - Promotional Material**

Councillor Palmer advised that when promotional material is distributed to resorts it is placed on the front desk and questioned whether the resorts could be asked to place the brochures in the rooms. Cr Palmer advised that the Tourism Association doesn't appear to have a policy on the matter.

The question was taken on notice, to be referred to City Business Units.

## **4. Policy - Staff working from home**

Councillor Joass questioned whether Council has a policy on Council staff working from home.

The General Manager advised that this has been discussed a number of times in the past, there is a policy and one or two people currently have approval to work from home but specially granted for various illness reasons.

## **5. Council Meetings**

Councillor Joass questioned whether it would be possible for Council to hold their meetings at places like Woolgoolga, Red Rock or Nana Glen once a year rather than holding them in Council Chambers.

The matter was taken on notice.

## **6. Councillor Roster System**

Councillor Joass asked whether it would be possible for Council to set up a roster system whereby a Councillor is on duty half a day a month at Woolgoolga or Red Rock to answer any questions about the Council or any queries residents may have.

## **7. City Centre Mall - Ficus Plants**

Councillor Bonfield expressed concern at the ficus trees in Harbour Drive, she originally thought conditions were too dry or too wet, but is now concerned that they may have been poisoned. Cr Bonfield suggested that if the trees have been poisoned, the matter should be revisited with the city traders group to ascertain if the trees are appropriate, or if there is a process of pruning the trees that will still retain visibility, the ambience and shade in the area.

The General Manager advised that it is premature at this stage to try and predict whether the trees have been poisoned or not, it could still be the case that they are saturated or dry. The General Manager further advised that when the Mall was being built there was consultation with traders and the street was designed for many factors, including the aesthetics of drawing people to Harbour Drive and as a result some traders are up 100's of percent in trading, however the matter will be taken on notice.

The Mayor advised that he also had received representations regarding signage on business houses which may be covered and the possible problems associated with trying to find the place of business.

Parks Branch to review and respond.

## **8. Trees at Arrawarra**

Councillor Joass questioned whether there was a value of \$25 per tree placed on trees at Arrawarra when they were going to be cut down and asked if this amount could be raised to \$500 per tree so people would think twice about cutting them down.

The Director of Planning, Environment and Development (Acting) advised that it was a condition of consent passed by Council that a bond for \$25 per tree be entered into for removal and replacement of the trees, not a bond for illegal removal of trees.

The General Manager advised that there were two issues, one is consent to remove and replace and the second is illegal destruction of trees which carries a fine and court action.

Councillor Palmer questioned whether there could be an on-site inspection.

On-site inspection to be organised within the next 7 to 10 days.

## **9. Pacific Highway/Moonee Beach Road intersection**

Councillor McKelvey questioned whether the Roads and Traffic Authority had made any decision on the speed limit at the Pacific Highway/Moonee Beach Road intersection.

The Mayor advised that the latest advice is that no decision has been made as yet so the speed limit would remain at 80km/h until a decision is made by RTA but the matter being monitored daily.



## **10. Arrawarra/Mullaway Sewerage Scheme**

Councillor McKelvey questioned whether any progress had been made towards finishing the Arrawarra/Mullaway sewerage scheme.

The Director of City Services (Acting) advised that the issue is a dispute between the contractor and a subcontractor and is the subject of legal proceedings. Mr Newton advised that Council is unable to do anything until the issues are resolved, however there is a meeting to be held tomorrow with the contractor and hopefully these matters will be resolved in the near future.

## **11. Load Limit - Longs Bridge, Eastbank Road**

Councillor McKelvey questioned what the plans were for Longs Bridge on Eastbank Road and asked whether another property owner between the State Rail Bridge and Longs Bridge could obtain dispensation in relation to load limits to travel over this bridge.

The Director of City Services (Acting) advised that Works Branch has upgraded the priority for repair of the bridge and it is hoped this would be completed over the next few months. Mr Newton further advised that if the other carrier wishes to contact Council, arrangements can be made to facilitate them using the bridge, the main issue is with unrestricted speed limits however if they travel slowly, they should not cause damage.

## **Public Forum**

Ms Christina Hyde, Manager of Film Mid North Coast, gave a presentation on the program of Film Mid North Coast, the time being 6.25pm.

Councillor Joass left the Chamber 6.35pm and returned 6.37pm.

## **12. Arrawarra Tree Clearing Application**

Councillor Smithers requested an update on the Arrawarra tree clearing application.

The Director of Planning, Environment and Development (Acting) advised as follows:

- Council at end of last year approved a development consent to remove a number of trees from Arrawarra Caravan Park
- The owners of the Caravan Park are not satisfied with one of the conditions of consent and they have lodged a Section 96 amendment
- Council staff have been trying to negotiate an agreed decision on the wording of condition 5 but have not been able to come to an agreement
- The applicants have since lodged an appeal to the Land and Environment Court.

Councillor Smithers questioned whether Council has any further involvement after the Land and Environment Appeal.

The Director of Planning, Environment and Development advised that the decision of the Court is final.

### **13. Woolgoolga Business Lands Working Group**

The Mayor questioned when the anticipated recommencement of the Woolgoolga Lands Working Group would be.

The matter was taken on notice.

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## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

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### **1. Sporting Events and Australia Day - Thank You**

Councillor McKelvey congratulated the Sports Unit and the Orara Valley Axeman for the excellent presentation of rugby league which was a great success.

The Mayor also offered his congratulations and advised that Council's sports unit are very pro-active in being involved with community groups that are also working to bring major sporting events to the city and the calendar for major sporting events in 2006 is excellent.

Councillor Palmer congratulated the Sports Unit on the ING cricket match which was a great day of sport and also advised that the Australia Day events at the Stadium were excellent.

Councillor Joass expressed his thanks to Ian Cameron, Val Reid, Anne Martin and the volunteers for their contribution towards Australia Day events and expressed pleasure at having attended a great weekend of sport, Australia Day and the Queens Baton Relay.

Councillor Bonfield requested that the community group of the Orara Valley be formally thanked in order to acknowledge the work carried out in making the rugby league event such a success.

## **2. Pacific Highway - Roads & Traffic Authority**

Councillor Bonfield advised that she had talked to Ex CEO of the refrigerated freight movers who made the following suggestion to the RTA regarding safety in the city and alleviating noise problems on the Highway:

- On the Pacific Highway through Coffs Harbour between Saturday (from 10.30pm) and Thursday (to 6.30am) between the first traffic lights on either side of the city, the traffic lights blink amber so no truck has to stop
- 50km/h speed limits apply on the Pacific Highway through the urban areas of the city
- The cross/through roads have blinking red lights so to warn local traffic coming to an intersection to take care.

Cr Bonfield would like to see the matter followed up with the Roads and Traffic Authority.

The Mayor questioned whether it was in place in any other towns in Australia - Councillor McKelvey advised that Canterbury Road in Sydney has a number of blinking orange lights on it after hours.

## **3. Northern Beaches Priorities**

Councillor Joass advised that during past 12 months he had a lot of local residents asking why Council has not done certain works in the Northern Beaches - his advice was there were no funds available. As a result, Cr Joass sent out a questionnaire to local residents to try and sort out the top priorities of residents, with the following results:

- 50% Pacific Highway
- 17 votes for lower rates,
- Footpaths, kerb, guttering and fixing local drains.
- Revitalising town centre and beach reserve were least important priorities

Cr Joass advised he had sent out 130 questionnaires and 107 had been returned.

## **4. Climate Action Grants**

Councillor Smithers advised that the government has Climate Action Grants available for up to \$250,000 and the due date is 24 February 2006.

The General Manager advised that the Environmental Services Manager is looking into this matter and will follow up and keep Cr Smithers informed.

This concluded the business and the meeting closed at 7.00 pm.

Confirmed: 16 February 2006

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K D Rhoades, AFSM  
Mayor