

The following document is the minutes of the Council and Committee meetings held on 18 October 2007. These minutes are subject to confirmation as to their accuracy at the next meeting to be held on 1 November 2007 and therefore subject to change. Please refer to minutes of 1 November 2007 for confirmation.



**COFFS HARBOUR CITY COUNCIL
ORDINARY MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
COFF AND CASTLE STREETS, COFFS HARBOUR
18 OCTOBER 2007**

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COFFS HARBOUR CITY COUNCIL

ORDINARY MEETING

18 OCTOBER 2007

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

Staff: General Manager, Assistant General Manager/ Director Corporate Business, Director Land Use, Health and Development, Director of City Services and Executive Assistant.

Leave of Absence: Councillors I J Ovens & C O Joass

The meeting commenced at 5.02pm with the Mayor, Cr K D Rhoades in the chair.

APOLOGY

- 126 **RESOLVED** by consent that an apology for part of this meeting be granted for Councillor Bonfield.

CONFIRMATION AND ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- 127 **RESOLVED** (Palmer/Smithers) that the minutes of the City Services Committee meeting held on 4 October 2007 be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORTS

19 COUNCIL SISTER CITY DELEGATION TO SASEBO, JAPAN - OUTCOME

To report on the outcomes of the Coffs Harbour City Council delegation to Japan.

128 RESOLVED (Hogbin/McKelvey) that:

1. Council notes the success of the official visit by the Mayor and General Manager to Japan in strengthening relationships with Sasebo, conducting trade and cultural talks and attending the Conference of Japan-Australia Societies.
2. Council notes the proposed redevelopment of the Japanese Garden in Coffs Harbour's Regional Botanic Garden with input from Sasebo City Council.
3. Council note the apportioned cost for the Mayor and General Manager to participate in the mission was \$14,364 (from a budget allocation of \$15,000).
4. Council approve a budget variation of \$6,547 for costs associated with the participation of the President, Coffs Harbour Branch of the Australia-Japan Society in the mission.

20 BOTANIC GARDENS - JAPANESE GARDEN DEVELOPMENT

To update Council on the development of the Japanese Garden within the Botanic Gardens and seek a preliminary budget for works to commence in 2007/08.

129 RESOLVED (Palmer/Smithers) that:

1. Council approve a budget variation of \$25,000 as part of an overall and ongoing commitment to the development of the Japanese Garden, in the 2007/08 budget.
2. A further report be presented to Council once the design and costing of the Japanese Gardens has been finalised.

Cr Bonfield entered the meeting at 5.15pm.

21 HUMPBACK WHALE MIGRATION PROJECT NAMING OUTCOMES

To report back to Council community participation in the Humpback Whale Migration Icon Name a Whale Project.

130 RESOLVED (McKelvey/Smithers) that:

1. Council agrees to facilitate a working party with the Coffs Harbour Youth Environment Council, Korora Public School and other interested community groups to choose a name for the city's adopted whale from the submissions received by Council.
2. A report be submitted from the working party to Council with recommendations on a whale name from the submissions received by Council and a festival calendar including a national day of action on whale protection be submitted to Council for its approval.
3. Provision of \$2,500 be allocated in the 2007/2008 budget for the creation and installation of banners, promotion, publicity and festival day activities associated with the Humpback Whale Migration Icon Project.

22 CONDUCT OF AUDITS - SECTION 355 FACILITY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES

To provide Council with details of the audit of the financial records of Council's Section 355 facility management committees for the year ended 30 June 2007.

Cr McKelvey declared a non pecuniary interest in this item, as a family member is on one of the committees, and remained in the chamber for discussion and voting.

131 RESOLVED (Hogbin/Featherstone) that the report on the audit of the Section 355 facility management committees be noted and Council extends its appreciation to all of the committee members.

CORPORATE BUSINESS COMMITTEE

132 RESOLVED (Hogbin/Smithers) that the Ordinary Meeting of Council be adjourned and Council now resolve into the Corporate Business Committee meeting, the time being 5.25pm.

The Mayor invited Councillor Hogbin to chair the Corporate Business Committee.

CORPORATE BUSINESS DEPARTMENT REPORTS

C72 COFFS COAST STATE PARK TRUST AND WOOLGOOLGA BEACH RESERVE TRUST ANNUAL TRADING REPORT 2006-2007

To report on the trading performance of the Coffs Coast State Park Trust and Woolgoolga Beach Reserve Trust for the period 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007.

CB93 RECOMMENDED (Palmer/McKelvey) that:

1. Council note the 06/07 Annual Trading Report for the Coffs Coast State Park and Woolgoolga Beach Reserve operations.
 2. Council extends its appreciation to staff on this outstanding result.
-

C73 LOAN TO WESTSIDE TENNIS CLUB

Provide an extension to the loan of the Westside Tennis Club to \$25,906 which would provide an additional \$3,581.75 to undertake urgent works.

CB94 RECOMMENDED (Palmer/Featherstone) that:

1. The loan to the Westside Tennis club be extended by \$3,581.75 to a total of \$25,906.00.
 2. The revised loan be paid over four and three quarter years on the existing terms with the current quarterly repayments by bank transfer, of \$1,595.74, remaining in place for the full term.
 3. The \$3,581.75 in funds be provided to the Club, subject to its agreement to the terms and conditions, by an exchange of letters.
-

C74 QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW FOR SEPTEMBER 2007

To report on the estimated budget position as at 30 September 2007.

CB95 RECOMMENDED (McKelvey/Palmer) that:

1. The variations in the attached exception report be approved.
 2. The revised Budget position as at 30 September 2007 be noted:
-

C74 Quarterly Budget Review For September 2007 ...(Cont'd)

	General Account \$	Water Account \$	Sewer Account \$
Original Budget adopted 21st June 2007	Nil	2,514,877 (D)	2,900,460 (D)
Recommended variations for September per attached exception report	199,549 (D)	Nil	10,000 (D)
Estimated result 2007/08 as at 30 September 2007	<u>199,549 (D)</u>	<u>2,514,877 (D)</u>	<u>2,910,460 (D)</u>

C75 PECUNIARY DISCLOSURES BY COUNCILLORS AND DESIGNATED PERSONS

To table the Register of Returns received.

- CB96 RECOMMENDED** (McKelvey/Smithers) that the Register of Disclosures by Councillors and designated persons for the period July 2006 – June 2007, as tabled, be noted.
-

C76 OUTSTANDING REPORTS AND RESOLUTIONS AWAITING IMPLEMENTATION

To provide Council with an update of requests for reports and previous resolutions to Council awaiting implementation.

- CB97 RECOMMENDED** (Palmer/Smithers) that the report be noted.
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C77 BANK BALANCES AND INVESTMENTS FOR AUGUST 2007

To list Council's Bank Balances and Investments as at 31 August 2007.

- CB98 RECOMMENDED** (Smithers/McKelvey) that the bank balances and investments totalling one hundred and fourty million, four hundred and seventy three thousand, six hundred and two dollars (\$140,473,602) as at 31 August 2007 be noted.
-

CONCLUSION OF MEETING

The Chairperson advised that the business of the Corporate Business Committee was concluded and invited the Mayor to resume the chair.

The Mayor resumed chairmanship of the meeting at 5.47pm.

OPEN COUNCIL

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

- CB99** **RECOMMENDED** (Palmer/McKelvey) that the Committee now move into Open Council.

ADOPTION OF CORPORATE BUSINESS COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 133** **RESOLVED** (Palmer/McKelvey) that the recommendations of the Corporate Business Committee meeting be received and adopted.

REQUESTS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

- 134** **RESOLVED** (McKelvey/Smithers) that Cr Palmer be granted leave of absence from Council on 1 and 15 November 2007.
- 135** **RESOLVED** (McKelvey/ Palmer) that Cr Smithers be granted leave of absence from Council on 1 November 2007.
- 136** **RESOLVED** (McKelvey/ Hogbin) that Cr Bonfield be granted leave of absence from Council on 15 November 2007.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

1. Median Strip Maintenance

Cr Palmer questioned if Council is responsible for maintaining the median strip from Bruxner Park turn-off to Korora School on the Pacific Highway.

Director of City Services took this question on notice, as adjustments to the boundaries are currently being finalised.

2. NSW Government Proposed Changes to Collection of S94 Funds

Cr Hogbin raised concerns about proposed changes by the NSW Government, to the rules for collecting S94 funds, and asked if Council was aware of these changes .

The General Manager indicated he has made representations to the Director General of Planning over the proposed changes which could bankrupt Councils and strangle community infrastructure. The General Manager will also make representations to the Director General of Local Government and the Minister for Local Government and liaise with the Local Government Association with regards to this matter.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Dangerous Tree

Cr Bonfield raised concerns about a tree in the Hogbin Drive/ Watsonia Ave area and questioned Council's liability in the event of it falling onto privately owned infrastructure, as Council has not agreed with an external consultants recommendation to have it removed.

The General Manager undertook to have the matter reviewed.

2. No Fault, Catastrophic Injury Insurance Scheme

Cr Smithers provided Council with details of a 'No Fault, Catastrophic Injury Insurance Scheme' currently being lobbied by Community Care organisations in the lead up to the Federal Election, and suggested Council support the concept as it could remove the need for individuals to sue Council following freak accidents which cause significant personal injury.

The General Manager undertook to consider the proposal.

3. 2007 Waste Management Conference

Cr Palmer provided details of the Waste Management Conference held in Coffs Harbour on 17-18 October 2007 in which 360 delegates attended, including himself and Cr McKelvey.

4. Escalating Oil Prices

Cr McKelvey raised concerns about the increasing cost of oil and potential impacts this will have on Council and the local economy.

The General Manager to examine Council's current processes and identify alternatives.

5. Ride to Work

Cr Hogbin congratulated staff who co-ordinated the 'Ride to Work' event on Wednesday 17 October 2007, which was attended by 50-60 Council staff.

The General Manager undertook to pass these comments onto the staff involved in co-ordinating this event.

6. Three-Bin Waste Collection Program

Cr Bonfield suggested Council needs to arrange further waste collection education in some areas of the City.

The General Manager advised that Handybin employs an Education Officer to work in areas where there is non compliance, and the General Manager undertook to provide further details on this matter.

7. Maintenance of Roundabouts

The Mayor expressed his appreciation to Council's outdoor staff who are dedicated to the outstanding presentation of local roundabouts.

The General Manager undertook to pass these comments onto the staff involved in this work.

8. Entrance to Big Banana – Proposed Modifications

The Mayor presented his concept plan for modifications to the entrance to the Big Banana, and asked that staff take this plan into consideration when holding discussions with RTA staff.

The General Manager agreed to convey the Mayors concept plan during future discussions with RTA staff.

9. Bray Street Intersection

Cr Palmer identified an issue, which he raised at the Traffic Committee meeting during the week, where he suggested a 'left turn only' sign be erected at the Bray St intersection to prevent north bound traffic from blocking vehicles turning left into Bray St, when the north bound traffic has a red light. An RTA representative advised in the Traffic Committee meeting that the emphasis is on the flow of traffic on the highway and as such there is no intention of erecting a 'left turn only' sign in the left lane.

10. Development of West Korora

Cr Palmer questioned where the access point will be for any future development in the West Korora area, considering the current access is not suitable for an urban or rural/ residential development.

The Director of City Services advised that this area would be affected by the RTA preferred route for the highway bypass, however considering recent pre-election announcements regarding the bypass, further discussions between Council and RTA staff cannot proceed at this time.

This concluded the business and the meeting closed at 6.24 pm.

Confirmed: 1 November 2007

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Keith Rhoades AFSM
Mayor