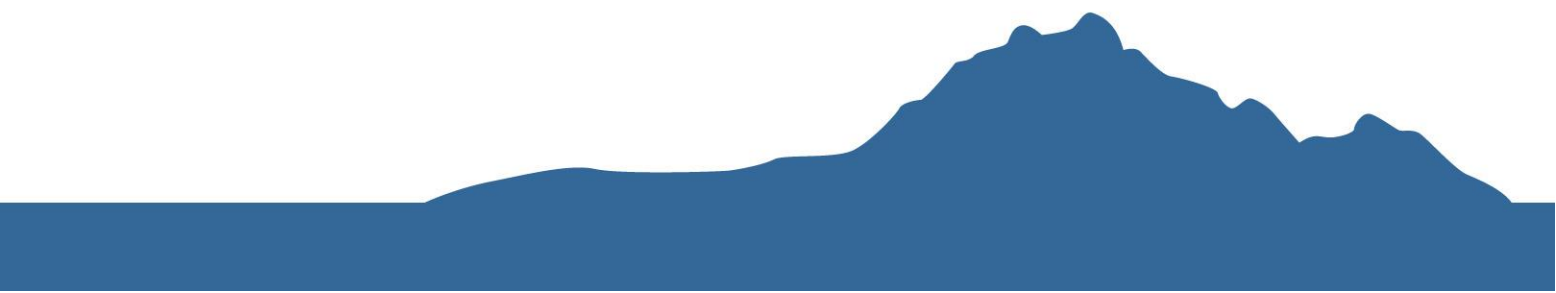




Unconfirmed Minutes
Ordinary Council Meeting
16th February 2017



FLINDERS COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES

DATE: Thursday 16th February 2017
VENUE: Furneaux Arts and Entertainment Centre, Whitemark
COMMENCING: 1.00pm

PRESENT

Mayor Carol Cox
Deputy Mayor Marc Cobham
Cr Chris Rhodes
Cr Peter Rhodes
Cr Ken Stockton
Cr David Williams
Cr Gerald Willis

APOLOGIES

Nil

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE

Bill Boehm - General Manager
Lauren Moraitis - Services Coordinator (Minute Taker)
Megan Boyes - Finance Officer (Minute Taker)

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

21.02.2017 Moved: Deputy Mayor M Cobham **Seconded:** Cr Ken Stockton
That the Minutes from the Ordinary Council Meeting held on the 17th January 2017 be confirmed.

CARRIED (6-1)

For: Mayor Carol Cox, Deputy Mayor Marc Cobham, Cr Peter Rhodes, Cr Ken Stockton, Cr Chris Rhodes and Cr David Williams.

Against: Cr Gerald Willis (abstained)

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Question 1: David Grutzner

Would I be correct in assuming that there is little that Council can do in regard to the new 'TRAINING LEVY' which has recently been introduced by the State Government as yet another additional cost associated with all future development applications on Flinders Island?

Mayor's Response:

The question was taken on notice.

Question 2: David Tresemer

What is the Local Government Association of Tasmania meeting about, the duration of the meeting and where can I find the agenda?

Mayor's Response:

Information relating to meetings, including agendas are available to the public and can be found on the Local Government of Tasmania's website.

Question 3: Deputy Mayor M Cobham on behalf of Margaret Goss

When will the road signage be installed that relates to cyclists overtaking distances of 1.5 meters? Council approved this initiative some time ago.

Mayor's Response:

The question was taken on notice.

COUNCILLOR'S QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Nil

COUNCILLOR'S QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE**Question 1: Cr D Williams**

Seeing that we have had no feedback on the resolution of the Flinders Island Aboriginal Association Inc.'s (FIAAI) green waste issue, could we please have an update now?

General Manager's Response

The General Manager met with Maxine Roughley of FIAAI and advised that green waste will be reinstated at the waste transfer station once the fire season has finished and it is safe to do so. Council had no choice but to act in the way that it did.

Question 2: Deputy Mayor M Cobham

Some residents are concerned at the arrangements TasWater has in place for the storage of water supplies at Lady Barron i.e. the use of a number of poly tanks. Their concern relates to the suitability of these in a high risk bushfire zone. Is Council satisfied that the location and placement of the tanks is appropriate?

Mayor's Response:

The question was taken on notice.

Question 3: Deputy Mayor M Cobham

Is Sharp Airlines in compliance with normal payment terms for money that Council collects from them?

Mayor's Response:

Yes.

Question 4: Deputy Mayor M Cobham

Is Council able to raise with Parks and Wildlife staff the issue that one of the long-standing access points to the coastal reserve at Emita has become overgrown and as a

result impassable? The track, historically known as the “Fairy Dell” was used on a regular basis by local residents and visitors.

Mayor’s Response:

The question was taken on notice – but local residents should raise the issue with parks.

Question 5: Cr Chris Rhodes

Is the Lughrata gravel pit in use?

General Manger’s Response:

The question was taken on notice.

LATE AGENDA ITEMS

The following has been received as a late agenda item:

- Notice of Motion from Cr Gerald Willis - TasWater Consultation Issues Paper for Price and Services Plan 3

Pursuant to S65(1) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, the General Manager confirms that he has had sufficient time to consider the item and to provide expert advice in relation to the item; that it was not possible to include the item on the agenda as the Councillor was not able to prepare the report in time and that the matter is time dependent and therefore urgent.

Under S8(6) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015, this item may be considered at this meeting by absolute majority vote.

DECISION

22.02.2017 Moved: Cr G Willis **Seconded:** Deputy Mayor M Cobham

Under S8(6) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015, the late agenda item Notice of Motion from Cr Gerald Willis - TasWater Consultation Issues Paper for Price and Services Plan 3, be considered as Item C1 at this meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (7-0)

For: Mayor Carol Cox, Deputy Mayor Marc Cobham, Cr Peter Rhodes, Cr Chris Rhodes, Cr Ken Stockton, Cr David Williams and Cr Gerald Willis.

DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

Nil

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

PETITIONS

Nil

WORKSHOPS & INFORMATION FORUMS

File No: COU/0205

Council Workshop held on 2nd February 2017

Council held a Workshop on the following subjects:

- Item 1 Council Image / Professional Development
- Item 2 General Manager's Update
- Item 3 Review of Code of Tender and Contracts Policy
- Item 4 Review of Public Question Time Policy
- Item 5 Legal Advice Policy
- Item 6 Flinders Island Tourism and Business Inc. Update on Expenditure on Marketing Program
- Item 7 Sale of Land
- Item 8 Council Investments
- Item 9 Purchasing of Vehicles
- Item 10 Blue Rocks Master Plan

Councillors Present:

Mayor Carol Cox, Deputy Mayor Marc Cobham, Cr Peter Rhodes, Cr Ken Stockton, Cr Gerald Willis (Item 1, 2, 3 & 6) and Cr David Williams.

Apologies:

Cr Chris Rhodes

Staff Present:

Bill Boehm General Manager
Sophie Pitchford Corporate Services Manager (Item 8 only)
Robyn Cox Strategic Planner (Item 10 only)

As workshops and information sessions are for information and discussion purposes only, no decisions are made or foreshadowed at these proceedings.

VOTING REQUIREMENTS:

Simple Majority

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Council Workshop held on 2nd February 2017 be noted.

DECISION:

23.02.2017 Moved: Deputy Mayor M Cobham **Seconded:** Cr P Rhodes

That the Council Workshop held on 2nd February 2017 be noted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (7-0)

For: Mayor Carol Cox, Deputy Mayor Marc Cobham, Cr Peter Rhodes, Cr Chris Rhodes, Cr Ken Stockton, Cr David Williams and Cr Gerald Willis.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Nil

PUBLICATIONS/REPORTS TABLED FOR COUNCIL INFORMATION

Nil

REPORTS TO BE RECEIVED

Flinders Council Audit Panel

File No: FIN/0401

Annexure 1: Flinders Council Audit Panel Meeting 3rd February 2017 Unconfirmed Minutes

OFFICER'S REPORT (Bill Boehm, General Manager):

The unconfirmed minutes of the Flinders Council Audit Panel meeting held Friday 3rd February 2017 have been provided for consideration. The minutes outline what the committee has been working on to date and can now be noted by Council.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That the unconfirmed minutes of the Flinders Council Audit Panel meeting held Friday 3rd February 2017 be noted.

DECISION:

24.02.2017 Moved: Cr D Williams **Seconded:** Cr G Willis

That the unconfirmed minutes of the Flinders Council Audit Panel meeting held Friday 3rd February 2017 be noted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (7-0)

For: Mayor Carol Cox, Deputy Mayor Marc Cobham, Cr Peter Rhodes, Cr Chris Rhodes, Cr Ken Stockton, Cr David Williams and Cr Gerald Willis.

COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Deputy Mayor's Report

File No: COU/0600

ACTIVITIES:

| DATE | ITEM |
|----------------|--|
| 17/01/17 | Enquiry from resident re Emita site re-naming |
| 18/01/17 | Dinner meeting with Local Government of Tasmania (LGAT) Chief Executive Officer and President |
| 19/01/17 | Meeting with Police Commander of Northern District, Inspector in Charge North East Division and General Manager |
| 19/01/17 | Council meeting with Police representatives (as above) |
| 19/01/17 | Monthly Council Meeting |
| 20/01/17 | Assisted Emita Hall Special Committee members to operate bar as fundraiser for Acoustic Supper event for Furneaux Islands Festival |
| 20/01/17 | Assisted with pack up and "bump-out" of Acoustic Supper event |
| 21/01/17 | Attended Furneaux Islands Festival Market Day in Whitemark |
| 22/01/17 | Assisted with barbecue for Furneaux Islands Festival Community Day event |
| 24/01/17 | Meeting with Emita resident re roadside vegetation being unsightly and a bushfire risk |
| 24/01-01/02/17 | Acting Mayor |
| 02/02/17 | Council Workshop |
| 02/02/17 | Enquiry from resident re Quarry Development Application |

CORRESPONDENCE IN:

| DATE | WHO | SUBJECT |
|----------|---|-------------------------|
| 27/01/17 | Maree Tetlow, Chief Executive Officer, NTD Tasmania | Issues with NBN rollout |

CORRESPONDENCE OUT:

| DATE | WHO | SUBJECT |
|----------|---|--|
| 28/01/17 | Maree Tetlow, Chief Executive Officer, NTD Tasmania | Response re NBN rollout |
| 30/01/17 | Robyn Dilger | Congratulations on Australia Day honours |
| 30/01/17 | Mhairi Bradley | Congratulations on Australia Day honours |

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Deputy Mayor's report be received.

DECISION:

25.02.2017 Moved: Cr G Willis **Seconded:** Cr D Williams

That the Deputy Mayor's report be received.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (7-0)

For: Mayor Carol Cox, Deputy Mayor Marc Cobham, Cr Peter Rhodes, Cr Chris Rhodes, Cr Ken Stockton, Cr David Williams and Cr Gerald Willis.

Report from Councillor Gerald Willis as the Flinders Council Representative on TasWater Owners' Representatives Committee
File No: COU/0312

CORRESPONDENCE IN:

| DATE | WHO | SUBJECT |
|-------------|---|--|
| 25/01/17 | Email from Kimbra Constantine, Executive Assistant to Ailsa Sypkes, General Manager Legal and Governance for TasWater | Advising that a quarterly update to Owners' Representatives will be provided in the northern region on Thursday 10 August at 2:00 pm in Launceston - I replied as an apology |
| 25/01/17 | Email from Kimbra Constantine, Executive Assistant to Ailsa Sypkes, General Manager Legal and Governance for TasWater | Advising that a General Meeting will be held on Thursday 11 May at 10:00 am in Launceston - I replied as a tentative attendee |
| 25/01/17 | Email from Kimbra Constantine, Executive Assistant to Ailsa Sypkes, General Manager Legal and Governance for TasWater | Advising that an Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 9 November at 10:30 am in Launceston - I replied as an attendee. |
| 27/01/17 | Letter from Eamon Sullivan, Program Manager Price and Service Plan to Mayor Cox | Advising that a Consultation Issues Paper for Price and Service Plan 3 had been released and that submissions can be made until 17 February 2017 |
| 27/01/17 | Email from Ailsa Sypkes, General Manager Legal and Governance for TasWater | Advising that a quarterly update to Owners' Representatives will be provided in the northern region on Friday 17 February 2017 - I replied as an apology |
| 02/02/17 | Email from Kimbra Constantine, Executive Assistant to Ailsa Sypkes, General Manager Legal and Governance for TasWater | Advising that a quarterly update to Owners' Representatives will be provided in the northern region on Thursday 23 February 2017 - I replied as an apology |

RECOMMENDATION:

That the report from Councillor Gerald Willis as the Flinders Council Representative on TasWater Owners' Representatives Committee be received.

DECISION:

26.02.2017 Moved: Cr K Stockton

Seconded: Cr P Rhodes

That the report from Councillor Gerald Willis as the Flinders Council Representative on TasWater Owners' Representatives Committee be received.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (6-0)

For: Mayor Carol Cox, Deputy Mayor Marc Cobham, Cr Peter Rhodes, Cr Chris Rhodes, Cr Ken Stockton, Cr David Williams and Cr Gerald Willis.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| ACTION | Information |
| PROPONENT | Mayor C Cox |
| FILE REFERENCE | COU/0600 |
| ASSOCIATED PAPERS | Nil |

REPORT:

APPOINTMENTS:

| | |
|------------------|--|
| 19/01/17 | Council Meeting with K Stephenson, Chief Executive Officer and Mayor D Chipman, President of Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) |
| 19/01/17 | Ordinary Meeting of Council |
| 20/01/17 | Furneaux Islands Festival Acoustic Supper at Emita Hall |
| 21/01/17 | Furneaux Islands Festival Street Market at Whitemark |
| 21/01/17 | Furneaux Islands Festival Veranda Music at Lady Barron Furneaux Tavern |
| 22/01/17 | Furneaux Islands Festival Community Day at Lady Barron Flinders Island Aboriginal Association Inc. Park |
| 23/01/17 | Interview with Mercury re Weekend Magazine |
| 24/01 - 01/02/17 | Deputy Mayor, Cr Marc Cobham as Acting Mayor |
| 02/02/17 | Council Workshop |
| 05/02/17 | Flinders Island Fresh Farmers Market at Furneaux Tavern |

Northern Tasmania Development Corporation (NTDC):

The constitution for the new Corporation as previously approved by Council has been amended to fit with the requirements of the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) for registration, making it as bland as possible. The changes made are not substantive changes to the structure of the intent of the documentation and previous arrangements made between member councils and NTDC and a "Letter of Comfort" regarding the changes has been supplied by the solicitor.

Undertaking the above enables the 'voluntary transfer' of Northern Tasmania Development as an association to NTDC Limited to be effected.

Emita Walkway:

At the October Ordinary Council Meeting, Council agreed to accept the donation of a strip of land two metres wide for a walking track between the Port Davey and Allports Roads at Emita (Motion 244.10.2016). Due to practicalities that have since arisen, including drainage issues, the development of the track will no longer proceed. The receipt of correspondence to Councillors from the land owner regarding the changed circumstances is recorded in this report.

Furneaux Islands Festival:

On attending all the Festival events, I was amazed at the scope of the music and talent supporting each event and it was great to see the Festival so well supported by Community and visitors to the Island.

I thank the Flinders Island Aboriginal Association Inc. as a major partner with Council in bringing the Festival to fruition. I sincerely thank all who put so much work into making the Festival not just happen, but be the very interesting and well-run event it was, especially those who did all the lead up work, the setting up and dismantling, the store holders, volunteers and those who made donations in any shape or form.

The Community Day on the Sunday that provided free food and entertainment to attendees was extremely well supported and showcased local food and talent along with two well-known chefs making our usually very edible food even more delightful to eat.

I thank the State Government for their support through the Great Australia Day Initiative, which provided grant funds for the Community Day - a celebration of our nationality, of being who we are, living where we live.

Mercury Weekend Magazine Article

The Mercury Tasweekend Magazine is planning to run a front cover story around life on an Island with the focus being on lifestyle for kids and families, with economic development as an underlying thread. Sally Glaetzer is their features writer. The article should appear in the near future.

CORRESPONDENCE IN:

| DATE | WHO | SUBJECT |
|-------------|---|--|
| 14/12/16 | Hon Peter Gutwein MP, Minister for Planning and Local Government | State Planning Provisions and Local Provision Schedules |
| 14/12/16 | M Easton, CEO, Integrity Commission | Determination of the Board of the Integrity Commission |
| 14/01/17 | Mr P Guichelaar | Fire risk to Darling Ranges and proposed development |
| 16/01/17 | Mrs J Youl, Secretary Flinders Island Tourism and Business Inc. (FITBI) | Meeting Agenda for Executive Meeting on 19 th January 2017 |
| 20/01/17 | Senator David Bushby | Building Better Regions Fund |
| 23/01/17 | Mr J Dick, Chair, Flinders Council Audit Panel | Response to Mayor's letter |
| 25/01/17 | Mr David O' Laughlin, President, Australian Local Government | A letter of introduction |

| DATE | WHO | SUBJECT |
|----------|--|---|
| | Association | |
| 27/01/17 | M Hobbs, TasWater | TasWater - Consultation Issues Paper for Price and Service Plan 3 |
| 27/01/17 | M Tetlow, CEO, Northern Tasmania Development (NTD) | Gathering Information - NBN Difficulties with Connections |
| 28/01/17 | A Spykes, TasWater | Quarterly Report to Owners' Representatives |
| 28/01/17 | T Clark, NTD | Public hearing for Telecommunications Universal Service Obligation inquiry |
| 29/01/17 | Ms J Lynch | Palana boundary fence |
| 31/01/17 | Tasmanian Audit Office | Determination of Audit Fees for the year ending 30 th June 2017 |
| 31/01/17 | R Banks, Antidiscrimination Commissioner | Annual Report 2015-16 |
| 02/02/17 | Mrs J Youl, Secretary, FITBI | Thank you receiving FITBI presentation on the 2 nd February |
| 02/02/17 | Ten Days on the Island | Invitation to celebrate the 2017 Ten Days on the Island Festival |
| 02/02/17 | Mrs J Youl, Secretary, FITBI | Executive Meeting Minutes - 19 th January 2017 |
| 02/02/17 | E Christie, Clariden Global Conferences | Request for Topics, Australia Affordable Housing: Tackling Australia's Housing Affordability Crisis |
| 02/02/17 | S Watson, LGAT | Vale, former Central Highlands Mayor, Dierdre Flint OAM |
| 03/02/17 | M Tetlow, CEO, Northern Tasmania Development | Early notice of appointment of director for Northern Tasmania Development Corporation |
| 03/02/17 | Mr. S Dwyer, Principal, Flinders Island District High School | Response to letter re the annual Dux Award donated by Flinders Council |
| 06/02/17 | Mr G Walker | Re walkway and motion 224.09.2016 |
| 06/02/17 | E McNally-Smith, Digital Innovation Team | Free online courses to improve mental health through University of Tasmania |
| 06/02/17 | M Tetlow, CEO, NTD | Delay in the 'voluntary transfer' of NTD as an association to NTDC Limited due to ASIC requirements |
| 06/02/17 | Mr R Lamplugh, Ochre Health | Response to query about medical service to the Furneaux Group |
| 06/02/17 | Hon Peter Gutwein MP, Minister for Planning and Local Government | State Planning Provisions and Local Provision Schedules and Accommodation Sharing Policy to take effect 1 st July 2017 |

| DATE | WHO | SUBJECT |
|----------|-------------------------------|---|
| 08/02/17 | Ratepayer | Citizenship inquiry |
| 08/02/17 | Mr D Tresemer | Re Citizenship Ceremony |
| 08/02/17 | M Tetlow, CEO, NTD | Constituent Documents and Commentary |
| 09/02/17 | Northern Tasmania Development | Northern Tasmania Development Corporation Board Directors announced |

CORRESPONDENCE OUT:

| DATE | WHO | SUBJECT |
|---------------|---|---|
| 14/12/16 | M Grimshaw, President, FITBI | Visit of NTDC Chair, Mr J Pitt to Island and invitation to meet |
| 16/01/17 | M Patterson & J Mathieson, Telstra Country Wide | Re Stronger Regions grant application |
| 16/01/17 | Ms J Youl, FITBI | Apology to Invitation to Executive Meeting of FITBI |
| 13 & 17/01/17 | S Richardson, Ochre | Re housing in or around Whitemark |
| 18/01/17 | A Jensen, Tasmanian Living Magazine | Well wishes for launch of magazine and contact on island |
| 08/02/17 | Ratepayer | Re Citizenship ceremony (per staff) |

VOTING REQUIREMENTS:

Simple Majority

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Mayor's report be received.

DECISION:

27.02.2017 Moved: Deputy Mayor M Cobham **Seconded:** Cr P Rhodes
That the Mayor's report be received.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (7-0)

For: Mayor Carol Cox, Deputy Mayor Marc Cobham, Cr Peter Rhodes, Cr Chris Rhodes, Cr Ken Stockton, Cr David Williams and Cr Gerald Willis.

A. DEVELOPMENT SERVICES AND PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Item A1: Development Application Report

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| ACTION | Information |
| PROPONENT | Council Officer |
| OFFICER | Jacci Viney, Development Services Coordinator |
| FILE REFERENCE | DSV/0300 |
| ASSOCIATED PAPERS | <i>Annexure 2: Planner's Information Report – January 2017</i> |

INTRODUCTION:

The purpose of this report is to provide Councillors with an update of the applications which have been dealt with by the Planning Department for the month of October as per the council motion 249.09.2015, passed at the 24th September 2015 Council Meeting.

Council has requested that the planning consultancy service (West Tamar Council) provide this detail to Council on a monthly basis.

Permitted applications are assessed under s58 of the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993* and as such are not advertised nor are the applicant's details made public. Applicants retain the right to privacy having met all development and use standards applicable within the current planning scheme. Applications made under this section must be granted a permit, with or without conditions.

The numbering of applications relates to the allocation provided by the 'Regulatory Applications' (RegApps) electronic filing system. Numbers are allocated in order to Planning (DA), Building (BA) and Plumbing (PA) applications. This may mean that planning numbers are not sequential.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:

Some items may have been considered at meetings of Council while the remainder have been approved under delegation by the General Manager.

OFFICER'S REPORT:

Refer to Annexure 2: Planner's Information Report – January 2017, provided by West Tamar Council.

VOTING REQUIREMENTS:

Simple Majority

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION:

That the Planner's Information Report for January 2017 be received.

DECISION:

28.02.2017 Moved: Cr P Rhodes **Seconded:** Cr K Stockton
That the Planner's Information Report for January 2017 be received.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (7-0)

For: Mayor Carol Cox, Deputy Mayor Marc Cobham, Cr Peter Rhodes, Cr Chris Rhodes,
Cr Ken Stockton, Cr David Williams and Cr Gerald Willis.

B. GOVERNANCE

Item B1: Local Government of Tasmania (LGAT) General Meeting

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| ACTION | Information |
| PROPONENT | Council Officer |
| OFFICER | Bill Boehm, General Manager |
| FILE REFERENCE | COU/0303 |
| ASSOCIATED PAPERS | <i>Annexure 3: LGAT General Meeting Agenda February 2017 (Elected Members only)</i> <i>Annexure 4: LGAT General Meeting Attachments (Elected Members only)</i> |

INTRODUCTION:

The LGAT General Meeting will be held on the 17th February 2017. The meeting Agenda and attachments are provided for elected members as Annexures 3 & 4.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:

Council considers the LGAT General Meeting Agenda at the Ordinary Council meeting prior to the LGAT General Meeting to allow Council to inform the Mayor of what position it wishes the Mayor to take in relation to voting on specific matters.

OFFICER'S REPORT:

There are two items for decision in the LGAT General Meeting Agenda that Council needs to consider and provide direction to the Mayor in relation to voting – motions 2.1 and 2.2. The agenda and attachments can be accessed at the LGAT website through the following link: <http://www.lgat.tas.gov.au/page.aspx?u=782#e1092>

STATUTORY REQUIREMENT:

Nil

POLICY/STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS:

4. Strategic, Efficient and Effective Organisation - Responding to risks and opportunities.

4.1 Remain actively engaged with internal and external stakeholders providing regional leadership.

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

No known budget implications at this time.

RISK/LIABILITY:

Minimal

VOTING REQUIREMENTS:

Simple Majority

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION:

That Council notes the 17th February 2017 Local Government Association of Tasmania General Meeting Agenda and attachments and provides the Mayor with direction in relation to items 2.1 and 2.2.

DECISION:

29.02.2017 Moved: Deputy Mayor M Cobham **Seconded:** Cr G Willis

That Council notes the 17th February 2017 Local Government Association of Tasmania General Meeting Agenda and attachments and provides the Mayor with direction in relation to items 2.1 and 2.2.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (7-0)

For: Mayor Carol Cox, Deputy Mayor Marc Cobham, Cr Peter Rhodes, Cr Chris Rhodes, Cr Ken Stockton, Cr David Williams and Cr Gerald Willis.

30.02.2017 Moved: Cr D Williams **Seconded:** Cr G Willis

That Council supports the motion, 2.1 – Access to Electoral Roles, of the Local Government Association of Tasmania Agenda for this 17th February 2017.

CARRIED (6-1)

For: Deputy Mayor Marc Cobham, Cr Peter Rhodes, Cr Chris Rhodes, Cr Ken Stockton and Cr David Williams.

Against: Carol Cox

31.02.2017 Moved: Cr P Rhodes **Seconded:** Deputy Mayor M Cobham

That Council supports the motion, 2.2 – Extending the Term of GMC Members, of the Local Government Association of Tasmania Agenda for this 17th February 2017.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (7-0)

For: Mayor Carol Cox, Deputy Mayor Marc Cobham, Cr Peter Rhodes, Cr Chris Rhodes, Cr Ken Stockton, Cr David Williams and Cr Gerald Willis.

Item B2: Public Question Time – Council Meetings Policy and Procedure

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| ACTION | Decision |
| PROPONENT | Council Officer |
| OFFICER | Bill Boehm, General Manager |
| FILE REFERENCE | COU/0600 |
| ASSOCIATED PAPERS | <i>Annexure 5: DRAFT Public Question Time – Council Meetings Policy</i> <i>Annexure 6: DRAFT Public Question Time – Council Meetings Procedure</i> |

INTRODUCTION:

Council's Policy Manual is an important document of Council as it provides direction to Staff, Management and Councillors. Many of the policies are required by, or relate to, legislation and in most instances help manage Council's exposure to risk.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| 12 July 1994 | 157.07.94 |
| 14 November 1995 | 205.11.95 |
| 13 December 2001 | 301.12.01 |
| 13 February 2003 | 127.02.03 |
| 08 September 2005 | 540.09.05 |
| 13 October 2005 | 601.10.05 |
| 20 May 2010 | 133.05.10 |
| 19 January 2012 | 18.01.2012 |
| Council Workshop | 2 nd February 2017 |

OFFICER'S REPORT:

Council has a policy that states that policies should be reviewed at least every four (4) years by the then elected members.

The Public Question Time – Council Meetings Policy has been reviewed and updated. In keeping with best practice, the policy has been fine-tuned and a separate procedure has been developed that provides the guidelines by which the policy is to be executed.

STATUTORY REQUIREMENT:

Local Government Act 1993

Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015

POLICY/STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS:

4. Strategic, Efficient and Effective Organisation - Responding to risks and opportunities.

4.3 Ensure Council meets its statutory obligations and manages corporate and community risk.

4.3.9 Maintain Council's Policy Manual and Instrument of Delegation

4.4 Drive continuous improvement through a focus on customer service, community engagement, efficient systems and processes, innovation, capacity building and workforce development.

RISK/LIABILITY/COMMUNITY BENEFIT:

Adoption of this policy and ensuring that Management, Staff and Councillors are aware of and follow this policy will help increase the opportunity for formal access to the processes of Council, and reduce the risk to Council of adverse public perception of lack of transparency.

VOTING REQUIREMENTS:

Simple Majority

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION:

That Council adopts the Public Question Time – Council Meetings Policy and Procedure and allows them to lay on the table for 28 days for public comment.

DECISION:

32.02.2017 Moved: Cr D Williams

Seconded: Deputy Mayor M Cobham

That Council adopts the Public Question Time – Council Meetings Policy and Procedure as amended and allows the Policy to lay on the table for 28 days for public comment.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (7-0)

For: Mayor Carol Cox, Deputy Mayor Marc Cobham, Cr Peter Rhodes, Cr Chris Rhodes, Cr Ken Stockton, Cr David Williams and Cr Gerald Willis.

Item D3: Councillor Resolution Report

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| ACTION | Information |
| PROPONENT | Council Officer |
| OFFICER | Sophie Pitchford, Acting General Manager |
| FILE REFERENCE | COU/0600 |
| ASSOCIATED PAPERS | <i>Annexure 7: Councillor Resolution Report February 2017</i> |

INTRODUCTION:

This report identifies the actions taken and actual costs associated with implementing resolutions passed by elected members up to February 2017.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:

The report is presented on a monthly basis.

OFFICER'S REPORT:

Please read Annexure 7 – Councillor Resolution Report February 2017.

VOTING REQUIREMENTS:

Simple Majority

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION:

That the Councillor Resolution Report February 2017 be noted.

DECISION:

33.02.2017 Moved: Deputy Mayor M Cobham **Seconded:** Cr P Rhodes

That the Councillor Resolution Report February 2017 be noted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (7-0)

For: Mayor Carol Cox, Deputy Mayor Marc Cobham, Cr Peter Rhodes, Cr Chris Rhodes, Cr Ken Stockton, Cr David Williams and Cr Gerald Willis.

B. NOTION OF MOTIONS

Item C1: LATE AGENDA ITEM - Notice of Motion from Cr Gerald Willis - TasWater Consultation Issues Paper for Price and Services Plan 3

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ACTION | Decision |
| PROPONENT | Councillor G Willis |
| OFFICER | Bill Boehm, General Manager |
| FILE REFERENCE | COU/0312 |
| ASSOCIATED PAPERS | <i>Nil</i> |

NOTICE OF MOTION:

That this meeting resolves to approve the proposed report, as amended by the meeting if thought fit, as feedback to TasWater on the Consultation Issues Paper for Price and Services Plan 3 and instructs the General Manager to provide the report to TasWater by close of business on Friday 17th February 2017.

COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:

The Councillor's Report consists of three parts:

1. Analysis by the councillor
2. The proposed report
3. Extract from Consultation Issues Paper listing questions raised by TasWater on specific issues.

1. ANALYSIS BY THE COUNCILLOR

Flinders Council once owned and managed the supply of water to Whitemark and Lady Barron. Some years ago the water supply operations were transferred to Ben Lomond Water. The operations were transferred three years ago to TasWater in a consolidation which resulted in TasWater managing all water supply and sewerage operations throughout the state.

The State Government has put in place statutory requirements which control the way in which TasWater operates. There are also regulatory controls (Department of Health and Human Services and Environment Protection Authority) over TasWater. Another control is a review of TasWater's current operations and future plans by the Office of the Tasmanian Economic Regulator, cutely referred to throughout government as the OTTER.

TasWater presents submissions to the OTTER as part of the information gathering process by the OTTER. TasWater is currently preparing its submission to the OTTER for the period 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2021. In preparing its submission TasWater invited representations from members of the public (which includes local councils). It is in response to TasWater's request that this draft submission has been prepared.

TasWater prepared a document described as Consultation Issues Paper for Price and Services Plan 3 and it is from that paper that the response has been prepared.

2. PROPOSED REPORT

INTRODUCTION:

This report has been provided by Flinders Council in response to a Consultation Issues Paper for Price and Services Plan 3 released by TasWater. The plan covers the period 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2021.

PREAMBLE:

Flinders Council readily acknowledges that the Community it serves has been the beneficiary of TasWater's extensive capital expenditure programme through the construction and commissioning of plants to provide potable water in the Townships of Whitemark and Lady Barron. The council further acknowledges the contribution TasWater has made in extending water and sewerage services throughout the state.

It is the considered opinion of Flinders Council that the incorporation of TasWater to manage water, sewerage and dams could not have happened for many sites throughout the state under previous models for the provision of services.

Further, it is acknowledged that TasWater has had to deal with matters relating to the merging of three former regional entities (such as different employment agreements, governance issues and pricing variations) while simultaneously managing the operations for which it was established.

It is the view of Flinders Council that TasWater has more than adequately performed given the distractions from the core business which management has had to address.

In providing this feedback attention has been paid to the issues as they have been recorded in the Consultation Issues Paper.

ISSUE 1: Our Priorities

It is agreed that the relevant importance of the priorities are as they are written.

Although it is listed as the lowest priority, it is considered that TasWater should not be held accountable for supporting growth in the Tasmanian economy. TasWater has sufficient demands on its resources without the added imposition of economic development.

ISSUE 2: Investment to address key challenges

This council agrees with the split and timing of spending across the priorities.

TasWater is aware of the need to invest in mains throughout the state. While this issue does not have direct impact in the Flinders Council region, it is an important matter for inclusion in future capital expenditure programmes.

ISSUE 3: Customer bills

In essence, Flinders Council is satisfied with the increase in charges of 4.6%. However, the council would be unhappy with increases above that rate.

The council has no opinion on the variable/fixed split of charges.

ISSUE 4: Service Standards

Flinders Council is satisfied with the current service standards.

ISSUE 5: Serviced Land

Flinders Council considers that land which has access to water and/or sewerage services should contribute to costs through fixed charges only when that land is connected to those services.

Connections outside serviced land should be made on a case by case basis with charges to be agreed by the parties.

ISSUE 6: Policy for New Development

Flinders Council has no comment on this issue.

ISSUE 7: Trade Waste Policy

Flinders Council has no comment on this issue.

3. EXTRACT FROM CONSULTATION ISSUES PAPER - PRICE AND SERVICE PLAN 3 SUBMISSION QUESTIONS

Issue 1 – Our Priorities

What do you think the relative importance of our priorities should be?

- Protecting public health by providing safe and clean drinking water across Tasmania
- Reducing the environmental impact from water that is discharged from sewage treatment plants
- Ensuring the safety of dams to protect water security and public safety
- Maintaining reliable networks to reduce water service interruptions and sewage spills
- Increasing water storage capacity to avoid water restrictions
- Helping Tasmania's economy to grow by supporting new development

Issue 2 – Investment to address key challenges

- What do you think about the split of spending across the priorities?

- What do you think of the timing of spending we have proposed for the priorities?
- Are there other specific projects TasWater should be investing in that are important to you?

Issue 3 – Customer bills

- What do you think is a reasonable percentage increase per year in PSP3 given the need to substantially improve drinking water quality and reduce our impact on the environment, yet recognising the need to keep customer bills affordable?
- Would you be willing to pay more to further accelerate improvements to drinking water and the environment? What is the maximum percentage increase you would be prepared to pay for an accelerated program?
- Do you think the variable/fixed split for charges:
 - Should be weighted more toward fixed? If so, why?
 - Is about right (i.e. variable/fixed charges should reflect variable/fixed costs)?
 - Should be weighted more toward variable? If so, why?
- What do you think about our equivalent tenement methodology for sewerage bills?

Issue 4 – Service standards

- For the customer service standards identified in Table 5, would you prefer:
 - Improved standards (e.g. faster response times, shorter and less frequent service interruptions) which could mean higher costs or fewer resources to improve drinking water quality or environmental outcomes?
 - About the same standards as they are now?
 - Reduced standards (e.g. slower response times, longer or more frequent service interruptions) which could reduce the upward pressure on costs but may increase human health or environmental risks?
- Are there any other standards that you think should be changed (improved or reduced)?
- Should we introduce differential standards so that regions receive lower levels of service to balance out the cost to provide service to those areas (e.g. areas with a higher cost to serve receive a lower standard of service)?

Issue 5 – Serviced land

- Is our definition of serviced land clear? If not, how could it be improved? Is there additional information we should provide about the quality of service?
- Should everyone that can access water and/or sewerage services contribute to the costs through the fixed or service charge, regardless of whether they currently are physically connected?
- Should we allow new connections outside serviced land? Should there be any exceptions like industrial or agricultural development?

Issue 6 – Policy for new development

- Are our development policies clear and fair?
- In general, should all customers contribute to the cost of growth and development as it supports the economic prosperity of Tasmania?
- For specific developments, is it reasonable that developer(s) pay the works internal and works external costs attributable to their development(s)?

Issue 7 – Trade waste policy

- Is our trade waste policy clear and fair?
- Are the trade waste arrangements flexible enough for the requirements and variability of your business?
- To support Tasmania’s economic growth, should all customers contribute to the costs of managing trade waste, or should the costs be paid directly by those that generate the waste (user pays)?

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:

Nil

OFFICER’S REPORT:

As shareholders of TasWater it is important to understand the role of the Council, which is different to the Council’s normal “Flinders Island Community Perspective Type Role” as we have a responsibility to the collective as well as ensuring that the Flinders Island Community also benefits. Recent work on the Island in relation to the Whitemark and Lady Baron Water supplies with the costs collectively subsidised by the entire Taswater entity are cases in point.

TasWater’s performance by and large appears to be pretty good. There is always a balance to be made between maximising returns as a business within the normal constraints of a monopoly, addressing the impact of costs on the Community as well as the benefits of undertaking projects that have limited financial benefit but great community benefit. The questions in the paper effectively provide an opportunity to ascertain Council’s views to aid this broad strategic direction..

Cr Willis’s summation is very thorough and insightful as his suggestions in relation to the submission to TasWater with the willingness to amend his suggestions to provide a more focused submission.

The following comments are added in support of this objective:

Issue 1 – Our Priorities

Supporting growth in the Tasmanian economy. By its very nature the costs of water will potentially impact on growth in the economy. TasWater does have sufficient demands on its resources without the added imposition of economic development but every effort should be made to forward plan for this eventuality, ensuring that costs to

upgrade services to service new developments are shared in an equitable manner. In this way new developments make a fair contribution to the resources and infrastructure that has already been provided.

Issue 2 – Investment to address key challenges

The one specific project relevant to Flinders Council that comes to mind is the potential sewerage of Lady Barron. It may be helpful if this is flagged in the submission.

Issue 3 – Customer bills

The % increase in charges should always be made on the basis of funding the Business Plan of the organisation. Given that the vast majority of operating costs are likely to be associated with the fixed assets then it seems reasonable that the fixed /variable ratio of 70:30 be retained. In order to achieve some incentive to reduce consumption a variable tiered pricing structure for water could be examined.

Although not currently relevant to Flinders the equivalent tenement methodology for charging sewerage bills is something that may have relevance in the future. For sewerage the pricing rationale is not so straight forward as costs do not necessarily directly relate to consumption.

Issue 5 - Serviced land

The question imposed that “should everyone that can access water and/or sewerage services contribute to the costs through the fixed or service charge, regardless of whether they currently are physically connected?” is a vexed one.

Cr Willis’s view that only land which has access to water and/or sewerage services should contribute to costs through fixed charges only when that land is connected to those services is an easy approach to explain but will mean that those that could connect, but do not do so, could effectively be subsidised by those existing users. In other states it is common practice to charge a fixed supply to address this aspect. This also potentially avoids having to charge high connection fees in the future.

STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS:

Local Government Act 1993

POLICY/STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS:

By default, TasWater’s responsibility.

Council’s responsibility:

2. Infrastructure and Services - An Islands’ specific approach to planning and delivery to ensure community and environmental values are maintained.

2.1 Plan deliver operate community infrastructure to provide levels of service that align with community needs and demand.

- 2.4 Develop and implement solutions that mitigate environmental and health risks from wastewater treatment and disposal.
4. Strategic, Efficient and Effective Organisation - Responding to risks and opportunities.
- 4.5 Build financial and organisational resilience and maximise returns from Council's capital resources
- 4.5.1 Resources utilised to maximise financial and community returns.
- 5.4.2 Sustainable organisation.

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Nil

RISK/LIABILITY:

Nil

VOTING REQUIREMENTS:

Simple Majority

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION:

To approve the proposed report, as amended by the meeting as feedback to TasWater on the Consultation Issues Paper for Price and Services Plan 3 and authorise the General Manager to provide the report to TasWater by close of business on Friday 17 February 2017.

DECISION:

34.02.2017 Moved: Cr G Willis **Seconded:** Cr D Williams

That Council suspends the provisions of section 22 in accordance with Section 22 (9) of the Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015 to discuss this item.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (7-0)

For: Mayor Carol Cox, Deputy Mayor Marc Cobham, Cr Peter Rhodes, Cr Chris Rhodes, Cr Ken Stockton, Cr David Williams and Cr Gerald Willis.

35.02.2017 Moved: Cr G Willis **Seconded:** Cr D Williams

To approve the proposed report, as amended by the meeting as feedback to TasWater on the Consultation Issues Paper for Price and Services Plan 3 and authorise the General Manager to provide the report to TasWater by close of business on Friday 17 February 2017.

"PROPOSED REPORT (AMENDED)

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ISSUE 2: Investment to address key challenges

This council agrees with the split and timing of spending across the priorities.

TasWater is aware of the need to invest in mains throughout the state. While this issue does not have direct impact in the Flinders Council region, it is an important matter for inclusion in future capital expenditure programs.

The one specific project relevant to Flinders Council that is essential is the provision of sewerage to the town of Lady Barron. Lady Barron is a coastal town which has had unresolved issues with sewerage which will be exacerbated with the expected growth of the township.

ISSUE 3: Customer bills

In essence, Flinders Council is satisfied with the increase in charges of 4.6%. However, the council would be unhappy with increases above that rate.

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Flinders Council has no comment on this issue.

ISSUE 7: Trade Waste Policy

Flinders Council has no comment on this issue.”

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (7-0)

For: Mayor Carol Cox, Deputy Mayor Marc Cobham, Cr Peter Rhodes, Cr Chris Rhodes, Cr Ken Stockton, Cr David Williams and Cr Gerald Willis.

Meeting Closed at 2.10pm