



# **SPECIAL COUNCIL**

## **PUBLIC MINUTES**

WEDNESDAY 20 MARCH 2019 AT 1.20PM

**Council Members >>**

The Mayor, Councillor Jenny Hill  
Councillor Russ Cook  
Councillor Verena Coombe  
Councillor Colleen Doyle  
Councillor Ann-Maree Greaney  
Councillor Paul Jacob  
Councillor Mark Molachino  
Councillor Kurt Rehbein  
Councillor Margie Ryder  
Councillor Maurie Soars  
Councillor Les Walker

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## Goals and Objectives that identify strategic intent of Townsville City Council >>

### Corporate Plan >>

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#### Goal 1 - A Prosperous City

Deliver a strong and innovative economy for Townsville with sustainable growth and support for local jobs and businesses.

Objectives that identify our strategic intent:

- 1.1 Support local businesses, major industries, local innovation and employment growth.
- 1.2 Promote our economic and geographic strengths and market Townsville as a vibrant destination for commerce, education, research, tourism, entertainment and lifestyle.
- 1.3 Plan, support, provide and advocate for infrastructure and investment that supports innovation, residential and economic growth.
- 1.4 Maximize opportunities for economic growth by building and maintaining effective partnerships.

#### Goal 2 - A City for People

Enhance people's experience of Townsville as a liveable and vibrant city by providing services that support the growth of an inclusive, knowledgeable, active, safe and healthy community.

Objectives that identify our strategic intent:

- 2.1 Provide services and local infrastructure that meet community expectations, support growth and provide for the needs of our community.
- 2.2 Improve the liveability of Townsville and encourage active and healthy lifestyles by providing accessible public facilities and community infrastructure.
- 2.3 Improve the vibrancy of Townsville by supporting the community's access to, and participation in, a range of artistic, cultural and entertainment activities.
- 2.4 Enhance community knowledge of and access to council services to improve community wellbeing, health and safety.

#### Goal 3 - A Clean and Green City

Create a sustainable future for Townsville through the protection, maintenance and enhancement of our unique, natural and built environment.

Objectives that identify our strategic intent:

- 3.1 Plan, design and deliver sustainable development and support this by actively managing the natural environment and increasing green infrastructure, at both a city, suburb and place level.
- 3.2 Develop and implement long term solutions for the management of water and waste that are socially, financially and environmentally sound.

#### Goal 4 - A Simpler, Faster, Better Council

Transform the Townsville City Council into a simpler, faster and better council that is easy to work with, and for, and gains community trust by being transparent and managing its resources.

Objectives that identify our strategic intent:

- 4.1 Provide customer-focused services that meet the expectations of our community in a dynamic and adaptive manner.
- 4.2 Ensure that council's plans, services, decisions and priorities reflect the needs and expectations of the community.
- 4.3 Be a valued and committed employer who provides a productive, inclusive and respectful environment for staff and the community.
- 4.4 Improve financial sustainability and provide value and accountability to the community for the expenditure of public funds.
- 4.5 Ensure that public funds are expended efficiently and that council expenditure represents value for money whilst supporting the local economy.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Townsville City Council would like to acknowledge the Bindal and Gurambilbarra Wulgurukaba peoples as Traditional Owners of the land on which our Council operates. We pay respect to Elders past, present and future and value the traditions, culture and aspirations of the first Australians of this land. We acknowledge and hold in great significance the valuable contribution that Traditional Owners have made and continue to make within the Townsville Community.

# PUBLIC MINUTES

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<b>REPORT</b>	<b>COUNCIL MEETING</b>
<b>DATE</b>	<b>Wednesday 20 March 2019 at 1.20pm</b>
<b>ITEMS</b>	<b>1 TO 2</b>
<b>PRESENT</b>	The Mayor, Councillor J Hill Councillor R Cook Councillor C Doyle Councillor A Greaney Councillor P Jacob Councillor M Molachino Councillor K Rehbein Councillor M Soars Councillor L Walker

### **Opening of Meeting**

The Chair, the Mayor, Councillor J Hill opened the meeting at 1.20pm.

### **Acknowledgement to country**

The Chair acknowledged the traditional owners of the land, the Wulgurukaba of Gurambilbarra and Yunbenun and to the south of Galbidira the Bindal people, and paid respect to their cultures, their ancestors and their elders, past and present, and all future generations.

### **Apologies and Leave of Absence**

**It was moved by Councillor L Walker, seconded by Councillor M Molachino:**

"that the apologies from Councillor V Coombe and Councillor M Ryder be received and that for the purposes of Section 162(1)(e) of the *Local Government Act 2009*, Councillor V Coombe and Councillor M Ryder be granted leave of absence from this meeting."

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

The Chair, the Mayor, Councillor J Hill advised of an apology for this meeting from the Acting Chief Executive Officer.

## Disclosure of Interests

Following recent changes to the *Local Government Act 2009* the Chief Legal Officer reminded Councillors of their obligations for disclosing conflicts of interests and material personal interests for items on the agenda.

1. The Mayor, Councillor J Hill provided the following statement with regards to item 1 on behalf of Councillors R Cook, C Doyle, A Greaney, P Jacob, M Molachino, K Rehbein, M Soars, L Walker and herself:

"I make this declaration on behalf of all councillors, and I ask the Minute Clerk to record the names of all councillors as being part of this declaration.

This special meeting will deal with providing additional assistance to ratepayers whose properties were directly affected by the unprecedented rainfall event we experienced at the start of February.

Every councillor here knows people who were affected. Amongst them there are our friends, relatives, members of our sports-team, perhaps business partners, and some donors to our political campaigns.

On behalf of all councillors I declare those interests.

Our decisions here today will not be influenced in any way by those interests.

Rather the decisions will be made solely for the very simple reason that providing direct assistance to all owners of flood affected properties is the right thing to do.

We have received Ministerial approval under s.175F of the *Local Government Act 2009* to attend and vote at this meeting."

2. The Mayor, Councillor J Hill declared that the excess water rebate proposed during discussion on the item will not raise a material personal interest for her because she will ensure that an application for that rebate is not made in respect of the flood affected property in which she has an interest.
3. Councillor P Jacob declared that as his property is not connected to town water, the rebate does not create any material personal interest for him.

## Confidential Items

It was **MOVED** by Councillor L Walker, **SECONDED** by Councillor A Greaney:

"in relation to items 1 and 2, pursuant to Section 275 of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, that this meeting be closed to the public so that Councillors can discuss:

- (c) the local government's budget;
- (d) rating concessions;
- (a) the appointment, dismissal or discipline of employees;
- (b) industrial matters affecting employees; and
- (e) contracts proposed to be made by Council."

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

The Council discussed the items.

It was **MOVED** by Councillor L Walker, **SECONDED** by Councillor A Greaney:

"that Council RESOLVE to open the meeting."

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## Officers' Reports

### Confidential Items

#### 1 CONFIDENTIAL REPORT - Financial Services - Monsoon Event Rates Relief

##### Executive Summary

To assist the community to recover from the 2019 monsoon event, Council will extend the payment period for the January 2019 rates notices for affected ratepayers.

##### Officer's Recommendation

1. That Council resolve that the report/attachment is a confidential document and is to be treated as such in accordance with sections 171 and 200 (5) of the *Local Government Act 2009* and remain confidential unless Council decides otherwise by resolution.
2. That Council resolve, pursuant to section 121(a) and (b) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, to grant the following rates and charges relief for ratepayers identified as being eligible (as outlined in the Report to Council):
  - (a) a deferred payment of rates and charges for the period 1 January 2019 to 30 June 2019 until Monday 3 June 2019, the discount period for eligible ratepayers will also end on 3 June 2019; and
  - (b) a rebate of all interest charges accruing on rates and charges for the period 1 January 2019 to 30 June 2019 (only) prior to Wednesday 9 October 2019.
3. That Council resolve that the Chief Executive Officer is to decide and to determine eligibility for the monsoon event rates relief (as outlined in the Report to Council) in accordance with section 257 of the *Local Government Act 2009*.

## **Council Decision**

**It was MOVED by Councillor L Walker, SECONDED by Councillor M Soars:**

- "1. that officer's recommendation 1 and 3 be adopted; and
2. that Council resolve, pursuant to section 121(a) and (b) of the *Local Government Regulation 2012*, to grant the following rates and charges relief for ratepayers identified as being eligible (as outlined in the Report to Council):
  - (a) a deferred payment of rates and charges for the period 1 January 2019 to 30 June 2019 until Monday 3 June 2019, the discount period for eligible ratepayers will also end on 3 June 2019;
  - (b) a rebate of all interest charges accruing on rates and charges for the period 1 January 2019 to 30 June 2019 (only) prior to Wednesday 9 October 2019; and
  - (c) a rebate for excess water costs incurred in washing out flood affected buildings be available by application and at the decision of the Chief Executive Officer capped at 25% of the volumetric water charge of the monsoonal billing period."

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **2 CONFIDENTIAL REPORT - Business Services - Human Resources Matter**

### **Executive Summary**

The purpose of this report is for Council to review the officer's report providing a recommendation on a Human Resources matter.

### **Officer's Recommendation**

1. That the report/attachment be deemed a confidential document and be treated as such in accordance with sections 171 and 200 (5) of the *Local Government Act 2009* and that the document remain confidential unless Council decides otherwise by resolution.
2. That Council approve the recommendation within the Report to Council.

### **Council Decision**

**It was MOVED by the Mayor, Councillor J Hill, SECONDED by Councillor C Doyle:**

- "1. that officer's recommendation 1 be adopted; and
2. that Council appoint Mike Chiodo as Chief Executive Officer and authorise the Mayor, Councillor J Hill to finalise and execute the Chief Executive Officer employment agreement on behalf of Council."

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**



## **Mayoral Minute**

The Mayor, Councillor J Hill provided the following Mayoral Minute:

"Townsville City Council has endorsed the appointment of Mike Chiodo to the position of Chief Executive Officer, subject to contracts being executed.

Mr Chiodo has done an excellent job during his period as Acting CEO and before that as Director for Infrastructure and Operations so he has an in depth knowledge of major projects such as the new water pipeline.

Importantly, Mr Chiodo played a crucial leadership role during the floods.

Being appointed as CEO will ensure Mr Chiodo continues the work to rebuild our city after its worst natural disaster.

Mr Chiodo was also an integral member of the team which has implemented the transformation of Council – to make the organisation simpler, faster, better.

There is no doubt that Mr Chiodo is the right person to continue and complete the transformation started by the former CEO, Adele Young.

Just by way of background, previously, Mr Chiodo was CEO of the Department of Local Government and Community Services in the Northern Territory. He also held a number of Senior Executive roles in the Northern Territory, New South Wales and Victoria.

I'd like to thank Mr Chiodo for accepting the role at such an important time in the city's history and I know that he is absolutely the right person to ensure Council continues to deliver on its promises, while we undertake the rebuild and recovery task."

## **Close of Meeting**

The Chair, Mayor Councillor J Hill declared the meeting closed at 2.40pm.

**CONFIRMED this THIRTIETH day of APRIL 2019**

**MAYOR**

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**