



## COUNCIL MEETING - May 25, 2005

Venue: NGUKURR

Minutes: Andrei Koeppen (CEO)

**Attendance:**

David Daniels (President)  
Anita Thompson  
Daphne Daniels  
Kevin Rogers (Vice President)  
Robin Rogers  
Bobby Ngungamatjbarr

**Apologies:**

Dallas Kingsley  
Allan Watson  
Gerry Ashley  
Walter Rogers  
Shelia Joshua  
Peter Lansen (Resigned)

**Note re Quorum:** Under the Yugul Mangi Scheme, Div. 2, Sect 15, Para 4, Quorum of a meeting is the majority of Councillors then in office. Peter Lansen has resigned, so Council is currently comprised of eleven elected members, requiring at least six members to form a quorum. Thus a quorum was formed for this meeting.

**Previous Minutes:**

**Motion: Accepted as a true and correct record of Council Meeting**

**Moved: Daphne Daniels**

**Second: Kevin Rogers**

Business Arising from Previous Minutes:

**Corrections Officer:** two further applications received, one from Owen Turner and one from Ruth (Health Worker). Regional Manager dismissed Keith Rogers' application after witnessing an incident in the Council officer between Keith and CEO on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May. After further discussions with Louise and Cerinda they felt it was actually a part-time position. CEO suggested it could be combined with a wider Justice role to include Justice Committee co-ordination and work with social program. Council discussed the applicants and all agreed that Owen Turner would be well suited to the position.

**Motion:** That Owen Turner be put forward as Council's preferred candidate for the Community Corrections Officer for Ngukurr.

Moved: Bobby  
Second:

**Brief report by Joanna Streton from Indigenous Co-ordination Centre (ICC) on Shared Responsibility Agreements (SRA)**

Joanna indicated no SRA's were currently being drafted with Ngukurr residents. She clearly indicated she did not wish to discuss SRA's with Council as her brief was to deal with grass roots. Councillors suggested that Council represents the community and is therefore grass roots, but Joanna appeared to reject this proposal. Joanna mentioned she was in discussions with the Lady Rangers on a potential SRA but CEO pointed out that Lady Rangers are employees of Council and did not have the authority to negotiate SRA's without Council approval or at the very least without advising Council of their intentions. Several Councillors expressed concerns and frustration with SRA process and were alarmed that the ICC was dealing direct with employees, such as Rangers, but refusing to discuss SRA's with Council. Joanna indicated that SRA's would be with family or clan groups who would be accountable for the money and the project. CEO pointed out that a clan based economic development system had already been tried in Ngukurr and that it had all but failed. CEO expressed concern that the current SRA process threatened to cut-off access to funding for the community. Council members were unanimous that some SRA's should be negotiated with Council.

**Action: More discussions required between Councillors and ICC.**

**No motion moved.**

**Brief report by Roz Yakas-Koeppen on grant applications and projects.**

Roz summarised the projects she has been working on including an IT Training Grant to provide basic computer training to all adults in the Yugul Mangi region, including outstations. The grant contribution to the project is around \$400,000 and includes a significant investment in computer hardware, software and training infrastructure, plus satellite internet services to all outstations and the refurbishment of the former Women's Centre into an IT Training and Information Centre. Other grant applications include an upgrade of the radio broadcast facility, funding for a petrol sniffers bush-camp, an application to renovate the old hospital into a Culture Centre & Museum, among other grant applications (detailed in the handout). Roz mentioned that the Area Consultative Committee had indicated there is a good probability of receiving a grant to cover her position as Grants & Funding Co-ordinator (renamed Special Projects Manager in the restructure)

**Action: Community members and Staff encouraged to contact Roz with projects that require grant funding.**

**No Motion moved.**

**Rick Fletcher from DEWR (ICC) talked about CDEP and outlined the proposal negotiated between Bryan Williams and DEWR.**

In essence, the CDEP is changing and will now have a different focus. CDEP should not be seen as long term employment, it should lead to a career path. In addition to CDEP wages for the 275 engaged in agreed areas of work and participation, a further \$1,031,883 will be provided for; Management of the program (\$231,170), Employment of additional staff (\$201,475), Business Development (\$90,995) and Community Development (\$502,543). These are yet to be confirmed. The proposal is currently with Canberra.

**Action: CEO and Bryan to continue discussions with Rick from DEWR.**

**Bob Savage (Finance Manager) provided a clear overview of the current financial position of Council (see handout "Statement of Financial Position as at 24 May7 2005).**

Bob talked briefly about the current position which shows \$1.3m total current assets, 248k in total current liabilities, net current assets of \$1.06m, non-current assets of \$13.4m and total equity of \$14.5m. Income for the period was \$6.8m and Expenditure \$6.4m, with a current surplus of \$435k.

Bob also talked about the Pool Kiosk and Art Centre, both of which make a small loss but are important to the community. He emphasised that the swimming pool is entirely dependent on the Kiosk for its cost of operation.

**Motion: to accept the financial report as a true record of the current position**

**Moved: Daphne Daniels**

**Second: Kevin Rogers**

### **Management Structure**

CEO presented a powerpoint of the final draft of the management structure for approval by Council. Bobby Ngungamatjbarr suggested that the Director of Corporate Services position be held by Bob Savage in an acting role until such time as the position is advertised and a permanent appointment made. Similarly, Bobby suggested that Bryan Williams hold the Director of Technical Services role in an acting capacity until the position is advertised and an appointment made. All Council members present were in agreement.

The restructure effectively creates four new Director positions which cover all functions of Council. They are Corporate Services, Community Services, Technical Services, and Government Services. Each of these Directors report to the CEO. Other than the Executive Assistant and the Special Projects Manager, all other positions report to their respective Director or Manager.

**Resolution: that the organization structure proposed by the CEO be accepted by Council and implemented immediately, subject only to final confirmation of funding and budget approvals (especially CDEP)**

**Moved: Anita Thomson**

**Second: Daphne Daniels**

### **Liquor Commission**

The issue of liquor permits was again discussed. All existing permits for Ngukurr expire on June 30, 2005 and Council will be called upon to approve or decline any future applications. After some discussion, Council agreed that a Community Vote should be held on the issue. No permits would be approved until the matter has been resolved.

**Moved: Daphne Daniels**

**Second: Robin Rogers**

### **New Machinery**

CEO presented a list of new vehicles and machinery to be purchased. Some of these items will be paid for from the 2004/2005 budget, while others may be part of the 2005/2006 budget.

The vehicles include;

- 1 x Toyota Landcruiser Utility for the Plumber
- 1 x Toyota HiLux 4x4 Twin Cab Utility for the Environmental Health Officer
- 1 x Toyota HiLux 4x4 Twin Cab Utility for the Housing Management Office
- 1 x John Deere Tool Carrier/Front-End Loader for Roads, Dump & Housing
- 1 x Toyota 2.5 ton Forklift - General Freight Loading/Unloading

Details and prices were presented in the meeting.

**Motion: to approve the purchase of the described vehicles and machinery**

**Moved: Robin Rogers**

**Second: Kevin Rogers**

### **Compliance Audit & Financial Audit**

CEO tabled the two audit documents and outlined the nature of each document. He stressed the importance of these and suggested they are an opportunity to attend to the many issues that need to be addressed in the administration of Council. CEO noted that the appointment of a new CEO was already a step towards resolving many of the issues raised in the audits. There were other issues too and the CEO mentioned some of the more pertinent including the payment of sitting fees to Council employees on Council and other minor conflict of interest issues. The compliance audit needed to be responded to and the CEO indicated he would do this in the near future. The audits were made available to Councillors and further discussion should be attached to them in the next Council meeting.

**No Motion. More discussion needed.**

### **Rubbish Bins**

CEO discussed the grant for the rubbish bins and presented the Grant Acceptance documentation in the Correspondence Folder (circulated during meeting). The grant total is \$20,000. This has provided a total of 284 blue mobile rubbish bins with yellow lids at a cost of \$70 each (plus freight from Katherine to Ngukurr). Approximately 60 bins in total will go to Minyerri, 20 bins to Urapunga, and the remainder will be used for Ngukurr, the Roper Bar and other roadside locations.

**Motion: To accept the Special Purpose Grant for the rubbish bins**

**Moved: Daphne Daniels**

**Second: Anita Thomson**

### **Builder's Visit**

CEO talked briefly about the builder recently brought to the community to look at several housing issues including, the construction of some short-term accommodation for visitors, the construction of pre-fabricated houses for outstations, the construction of homes for indigenous Council staff, the development of a construction industry at Ngukurr, the current status of resources and assets at Ngukurr. The builder will prepare a report for the next Council meeting.

**No Motions.**

**Appointment of Plumber**

CEO talked briefly about the appointment of Tony Dell as Community Plumber. Council welcomed the initiative and several remarked it was overdue and that Yugul Mangi was in urgent need of a resident plumber.

Some agenda items were deferred to the next meeting. The inclusion of DEWR, ICC and Grant reports occupied more time than anticipated.

Other Business: there was no other business.

**Meeting Closed: 4:00 pm**

Minutes prepared by Andrei Koeppen (CEO)

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

**David Daniels, President**