

REPORTS FOR DECISION

ITEM NUMBER	5.1
TITLE	Minor amendments to the Shire plan and Declaration of rates and charges.
REFERENCE	124876
AUTHOR	Alan Hudson, Chief Executive Officer



This report is to advise Council of comments on the draft shire plan and seeks Councillor's ratification of the report to include amendments

BACKGROUND

As Councillors are aware they approved the draft shire plan, inclusive of the budget, declaration of rates and charges and staffing structure. This has, as of 5 August been displayed for comment on Council's website for public comment (for 21 days) and was advertised as required in the press.

ISSUES/OPTIONS/CONSEQUENCES

S 127 (2) (e) states that Council's budget must "contain an assessment of the social and economic effects of its rating policies..."

To comply with this requirement it is proposed to insert the following statement in the budget section of the Shire plan.

"In framing its budget and consequently its declaration of rates and charges Council has taken into consideration the following matters;

- a) In relation to increased costs to the shire
 - The Local government Consumer price index of 4.1% for the northern territory
 - The imposition of large one off increases in charges for power and water
 - Their recent agreement to Sub-leases in the townships of Wurrumiyanga and Milikapiti with unfunded costs to the shire of around \$180,000
- b) That Council recognizes that there will be increased costs for unfunded township services as a consequence of the loss of funding to it resulting from the awarding of the RJCP program to other providers
- c) In relation to those persons within the shire who are purchasing their own homes
 - That the increase in rates may impose some financial hardship for this group, recognizing that they are the only individuals within the shire responsible for payment of their own rates,
 - That in recognition of the likely financial impact for these people the rates declaration make provision of a concession of 33.3% of the proposed rates increase to apply to this class of ratepayer

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council endorse inclusion of the above assessment of the impact of the social and economic effects of its rating policy in its budget and the Shire Plan.

3 CORRESPONDENCE

Nil

4 GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil

* EXTRACT FROM SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES OF 6 AUG 2013

5 REPORTS FOR DECISION

Bm

5.1 MINOR AMENDMENTS TO THE 13/14 SHIRE PLAN AND DECLARATION OF RATES AND CHARGES.

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This report is to advise Council of comments on the draft shire plan and seeks Councillor's ratification of the report to include amendments.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Crystal Johnson

Seconded: John Naden

That Council endorses inclusion of the above assessment of the impact of the social and economic effects of its rating policy in its budget and the Shire Plan.

CARRIED

5.2 COUNCIL POLICY ON THE ACCEPTANCE OR REJECTION OF APOLOGIES FOR ATTENDANCE AT COUNCIL MEETINGS

This paper asks Councillors to adopt a policy to clarify the 'acceptance and rejection' protocols for Councillor attendance at Council meetings.

RESOLUTION

Moved: Barry Puruntatameri

Seconded: Brian Tipungwuti

That Council adopts as policy the following protocols in relation to Councillors attendances at meetings;

Acceptable reasons for being absent (provided that the Mayor is notified before the relevant meeting

1. Sick (preferably with a certificate subsequently provided)
2. Attendance at a funeral (where culturally important, e.g. family, relative)
3. Grieving after a death in their family
4. Endorsed to represent Council elsewhere whilst that meeting is held.
5. A known leave of absence away from the Shire
6. Unavailability where a meeting has been changed at short notice

Unacceptable reasons for being absent

1. Other meetings (store, committees etc)
2. In Darwin or elsewhere on personal business
3. The same reason repeatedly where it is felt that the Councillor could have attended.
4. Where a Councillor is consistently very late for meetings

A table of Councillor attendances classified by the nature of the meetings held is now to be tabled at every meeting.

CARRIED

6 REPORTS FOR INFORMATION Nil

7 Next Meeting

8 Closure The meeting closed at 12:30 pm.