



**AGENDA**  
**SPECIAL MEETING**  
**TUESDAY, 6 AUGUST 2013**

Notice is given that the next Special Meeting of Council of Tiwi Islands Shire Council will be held on:

- Tuesday, 6 August 2013 at
- Wurrumiyanga
- Commencing at 11:00 am

Your attendance at the meeting will be appreciated.

## **AGENDA**

### **1 WELCOME & APOLOGIES**

- 1.1 WELCOME
- 1.2 PRESENT
- 1.3 APOLOGIES
- 1.4 LEAVE OF ABSENCE
- 1.5 DECLARATION OF INTEREST OF MEMBERS OR STAFF
- 1.6 ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON
- 1.7 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

*Special Meeting - 8 July 2013*

### **2 BUSINESS ARISING**

*Nil*

### **3 CORRESPONDENCE**

*Nil*

### **4 GENERAL BUSINESS**

*Nil*

### **5 REPORTS FOR DECISION**

- 5.1 MINOR AMENDMENTS TO THE SHIRE PLAN AND DECLARATION OF RATES  
AND CHARGES..... 3
- 5.2 COUNCIL POLICY ON THE ACCEPTENCE OR REJECTION OF APOLOGIES  
FOR CATTENDANCE AT COUNCIL MEETINGS..... 5

### **6 REPORTS FOR INFORMATION**

*Nil*

### **7 NEXT MEETING**

**REPORTS FOR DECISION**

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<b>ITEM NUMBER</b>	5.1
<b>TITLE</b>	Minor amendments to the Shire plan and Declaration of rates and charges.
<b>REFERENCE</b>	124876
<b>AUTHOR</b>	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.**

**ATTACHMENTS:**

There are no attachments for this report.

## REPORTS FOR DECISION

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<b>ITEM NUMBER</b>	5.2
<b>TITLE</b>	Council policy on the acceptance or rejection of apologies for Cattendance at Council meetings
<b>REFERENCE</b>	124877
<b>AUTHOR</b>	Alan Hudson, Chief Executive Officer



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

### BACKGROUND

At recent Council meeting Councillors have expressed concern at what appears to be the regular absence of some Councillors. Some discussion also occurred as to what was and what was not an acceptable reason for not attending meetings.

Particular concerns were expressed that

- Council meetings were determined some 12 months in advance,
- were held at the same time every month
- were thus known before councillors committed themselves to other meetings.
- Councillors should take into account their day to day work commitments before nominating for Council

### RECOMMENDATION:

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

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**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, eg family, relative)
3. Grieving after a death in their family
4. Endorsed to represent Council elsewhere whilst that meeting is held.
5. A know 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.

### ATTACHMENTS:

There are no attachments for this report.