



**SUPPLEMENTARY
AGENDA**

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, 27 JANUARY 2016

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

- Wednesday, 27 January 2016 at
- Wurrumiyanga
- Commencing at 10:00 am

Your attendance at the meeting will be appreciated.

Marion Scrymgour
Chief Executive Officer

AGENDA

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REPORTS FOR DECISION

ITEM NUMBER	6.5
TITLE	CEO Report for Council Meeting 27 January 2016
REFERENCE	175067
AUTHOR	Marion Scrymgour, Chief Executive Officer



This report is provided to Council as an update of meetings and important issues to the end of December 2015 .

Community wellbeing and Local Authority matters

1. In recent Local Authority meetings and in feedback from individual community members (especially male and female elders), a recurring theme has been the inter-related increase of anti-social behaviour and a deterioration in cultural knowledge and observance. There is great enthusiasm for initiatives aimed at reviving the role and influence of skin groups as a social structure within Tiwi society. In particular, there is an interest in using the skin groups as a forum for resolving disputes and enforcing discipline. There is support for TIRC taking an active role in such an initiative, both through the possible engagement of a part-time or full-time appropriately qualified Tiwi elder, and through the utilisation of relevant Local Authority members. This is an issue which will be placed on both TIRC and Local Authority meeting agendas throughout the year, so that discussion and debate about the concept can take place. Any initiative requiring the expenditure of TIRC funds will have to be undertaken in the context of TIRC's budget constraints.
2. A related issue is youths wandering the streets late at night. In Pirlangimpi there were complaints of children stabbing dogs. Once the General Manager of Community Development and Services (CDS) is back from leave we will be reviewing our services to ascertain what measures could be taken by TIRC (within the limitations of our budget) to contribute to implement or contribute to initiatives aimed at addressing youth boredom and misbehaviour. This review will be conducted in consultation with each of the Local Authorities.
3. Apart from trying to increase the number of Tiwi being directly employed (whether on an ongoing or casual basis) by TIRC, TIRC can sometimes play a positive role in promoting the employment of Tiwi in other programs and enterprises. In the December 2015 Local Authority meeting at Milikapiti, concern was expressed about the apparent lack of local men being employed in the New Futures Alliance building/construction work being undertaken in the community. NFA are constructing around 10 new houses. NFA has responded to an inquiry from TIRC and advised that there is an agreement between NFA and Tiwi Enterprises under which Tiwi Enterprises is being funded to employ 5 Tiwi workers.

TIRC staffing and infrastructure arrangements

4. Until TIRC's financial situation has become clearer and more stable, there is only limited flexibility to employ additional full-time staff. However, there has been an increase in the work to be undertaken in civil and town services, so the acting General Manager of Infrastructure and Assets has developed a pool of Tiwi men who we can engage on roster basis for casual work. This has been working to the mutual benefit of both TIRC and the workers involved.

5. Mr Geoff Harris has been employed as General Manager for Infrastructure and Assets, and will be commencing work at Wurrumiyanga on the 15/2/16. His contract will be subject to a 6 months probation period. He will be invited to attend the TIRC meeting in February 2016. I will be seeking input from TIRC and Local Authority members in relation to an appropriate cultural awareness orientation process for this senior level employee. In addition to managing and maintaining registers in relation to all of TIRC's non-fixed assets, the new GM for Infrastructure and Assets will be tasked with updating and maintaining our register of sub-leases and licences granted by OTL (land in the main communities) and a register of any leases or licences issued direct through the Tiwi Land Council (land outside the main communities). The new GM for Infrastructure and Assets will also be tasked with assessing current and future needs and shortfalls in terms of building and staff accommodation, and to develop a 5 year infrastructure and assets plan which will focus in particular on TIRC's role as the principal entity responsible for roads in the Tiwi Islands.
6. It is proposed that Postal services at Wurrumiyanga be relocated back to the main office building within the next 6 months. The reasons for this change will be outlined at the next TIRC meeting. Implementation will have to await an assessment (to be undertaken by the new GM of Infrastructure and Assets) of our medium term building and accommodation needs. There is an urgent need to address this matter. I am putting this on hold under the new GM of Infrastructure and Assets starts so that we can properly assess the future location of the post office in the context of the review he will be undertaking of all building and assets generally.

Sub-leases, licences, and cemeteries (main communities)

7. I have corresponded with the Executive Director of Township Leasing in relation to existing and proposed subleases over lots of land in the main communities where houses or buildings are located (or are to be built). The correspondence has also covered possible licences over parts of the community which are not directly occupied but where Council needs to undertake its functions (e.g. internal roads, parks, the football oval). Part of the reason why we need to do this is so that TIRC and its employees are covered legally and can arrange appropriate insurance.
8. Cemeteries in the main communities are a related issue. The *Local Government Act* gives local government councils like TIRC legal power to manage "public cemeteries" but it does not appear that the Tiwi Islands cemeteries fall into the definition of "public cemeteries" in the *Cemeteries Act*. I have recently written to our local government Minister about this and I had a meeting in Darwin on 22/1/16 with Government representatives who are involved in drafting changes to the *Cemeteries Act*. The meeting was not satisfactory in terms of addressing TIRC's concerns. I will report on my letter to the Minister and the 22/1/16 meeting at the coming TIRC meeting.

Leases and licences (land outside the main communities)

9. TIRC operates rubbish dumps outside the main communities. In order to regularise its operations at these sites TIRC will need to obtain leases from the owner of the land (the Tiwi Aboriginal Land Trust). Initial correspondence with the Tiwi Land Council has been entered into and this issue will be pursued over the year with regular reports to TIRC meetings.
10. TIRC will also be seeking licences over main roads which it maintains and authorised use of gravel pits.

Audit report

11. I have been pressing our auditors for the audit report in relation to the financial year ended 30/6/15 to be completed and provided to us. I have now directed that the report be provided immediately, regardless of the extent of any qualifications the auditor may have to make in relation to TIRC's accounts and financial situation. Only when the report is provided will TIRC and the Department be in a position to assess TIRC's true financial situation going forward.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council notes this report and the progress of various areas across the Regional Council area.

ATTACHMENTS:

There are no attachments for this report.