



**SUPPLEMENTARY
AGENDA
ORDINARY MEETING
WEDNESDAY, 16 MAY 2012**

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

- Wednesday, 30 May 2012 at
- Pirlangimpi Office
- Commencing at 10:00 am

Your attendance at the meeting will be appreciated.

**Alan Hudson
Chief Executive Officer**

AGENDA

6 REPORTS FOR DECISION

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REPORTS FOR DECISION

ITEM NUMBER	6.9
TITLE	Request for changes to the codes of conduct for both staff and Councillors
REFERENCE	99272
AUTHOR	Alan Hudson, Chief Executive Officer



This report asks Council to approve changes to the codes of conduct for both staff and for Councillors

BACKGROUND

Tiwi islands shire council has a code of conduct for councillors and staff. Recent incidents and consultations suggest that some additional requirements are needed.

These incidents were as follows;

1. For Councillors.

On two occasions recently when persons who were either councillors or candidates for Council were in Darwin at Councils expense and staying in accommodation arranged by Council, complaints have been received about loud noise, excessive drinking, minor damage and leaving behind rubbish and extremely dirty rooms. On one of these occasions two persons had a fight and on the other the CEO of this shire was called to the premises, only to be advised that the management were appalled, were about to evict all concerned and that a number of councillors were arguing loudly, threatening each other and generally disturbing the peace. Minor damage in the way of broken crockery and glasses was reported also.

2. For staff

Concerns have been raised that very few non Tiwi staff have obtained permits or alternatively appropriate permission to engage in activities outside community living areas (fishing, hunting and camping).

ISSUES/OPTIONS/CONSEQUENCES

In the first case (for councillors) this type of behaviour brings both the Shire Council and persons from the Tiwi islands into disrepute in the wider community. This may in turn lead to refusals to provide accommodation and/or higher costs for work and private trips to Darwin. Whilst conduct that brings Council into disrepute is already unacceptable under the existing code for both councillors and staff it is considered appropriate to be specific and now forbid unacceptable behaviour specifically where Council provides accommodation and that this be extended to both accommodation when such persons are off the Tiwi islands representing the Council (or even known to be from the Tiwi islands) and in any residence provided by this shire Council.

In relation to the issue of staff complying with the permission requirements of the Aboriginal Land rights Act Council, through the CEO has already acknowledged it's belief in supporting these provisions. Further to that and to ensure that staff comply we have also offered to make an annual payment for relevant permits for all staff through the Tiwi Land Council, noting of course that a legal permit may also be given directly to any person by a traditional owner. To reinforce the significance within this shire of our support for these permission requirements, it is now proposed that this reinforcement be enshrined in the code of conduct for staff (noting of course that they do not require permits for the performance of their duties within the shire)

CONSULTATION & TIMING

Persons involved in the recent incidents at Council provided accommodation have been counselled as to how this actually breaches the existing code of conduct and such breaches are a separate matters for council to consider.

In relation to permits all staff have been asked to advise of their requirements in relation to permits, bearing in mind that not all staff want to go camping, fishing and/or hunting or access areas outside their residential communities.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council approve amendments to the code of conduct to add

Ensure that where accommodation is provided to either a Councillor or staff member, whether it be when representing the shire outside the shire or in a residential context that that person's behaviour is appropriate, respectful at all times, does not result in damage nor in bringing Council or the Tiwi islands into disrepute.

That all non Tiwi staff have proper regard to and comply with the access and permit provisions of the Aboriginal Land Rights Act (Northern Territory).

ATTACHMENTS:

There are no attachments for this report.