



**SUPPLEMENTARY
AGENDA
ORDINARY MEETING
WEDNESDAY, 28 AUGUST 2013**

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

- Wednesday, 28 August 2013 at
- Pirlangimpi
- Commencing at 10am

Your attendance at the meeting will be appreciated.

**Alan Hudson
Chief Executive Officer**

AGENDA

7 REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

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REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

ITEM NUMBER	7.6
TITLE	Infrastructure Divisional Report
REFERENCE	130464
AUTHOR	Alan Hudson, Chief Executive Officer

**Background**

This report outlines activities for the Infrastructure Directorate for the previous month.

Housing

The Department of Housing have advised that they wish to further extend the current Housing maintenance contract till 1 December, prior to which time they will call for tenders for this contract and for Housing management. This uncertainty makes it extremely difficult to replace staff who have left. At this time this has necessitated that we have the services of a manager hired (on an hourly basis) through Hays recruitment. Whilst, initially, he was recruited until the end of September, he has agreed now to stay until the end of this current contract.

Nonetheless, we have a number of trades positions still vacant, pending the outcome of this tender process. Otherwise the building services team are able to report that they are on top of their work schedules and meeting all contract deadlines for completion

Staff houses at Pirlangimpi and Milikapiti are nearing completion and containers with the materials for the last of the "Kit" Homes due to be transported from Pirlangimpi to Milikapiti this week. Construction of these houses has been undertaken using our own tradesmen, outside contractors and our Tiwi apprentices.

Civil services

Crews in all 3 communities have been active with works on the roads between Pirlangimpi and Milikapiti, the road to Tiwi College and finishing off the Wurankuwu and Forcroy roads. Work is progressing well on the drain re-alignment on the end of Puti Drive, with gabion baskets and foreshore protective works included. We are still experiencing difficulties with breakdowns on older equipment. To counter this we have staff working outside their communities (from Milikapiti at Wurrumiyanga). Demolition works at Milikapiti are now complete with concrete from these houses having been used to start the commencement of a breakwall adjacent to the barge landing.

Township services

Some of the staff who were offered full time work in the crews that Council agreed to form (June meeting) have either not accepted the positions or are in Darwin (still being paid under RJCP). Offers have consequently been made to alternative staff. Work crews are otherwise making a marked improvement to the state of their communities, particularly here at Wurrumiyanga. We are still awaiting the outcome of the procurement process for one new garbage compactor but are expecting this will be resolved before the next Council meeting.

Council's new fees requirements in relation to the car barge operation outside normal hours has commenced, with the barge having worked 3 Saturdays since it's introduction with all having been pre paid or covered by purchase orders.

Essential services

The tender for continuation of this contract closes on 28 August. Whilst we will lodge a complying tender it appears that Power and Water are attempting to save costs by reducing the hours they anticipate for delivery of their whole range of services. Overall it appears that this amounts to a reduction of around 20% in the hours they expect to pay for. This makes the contract only marginally viable and we will also be lodging a non complying tender

based on advice from our ESO's as to what minimum hours are needed to comply with all service requirements.

We are aware however that there are a substantial number of other parties interested in this contract. The real danger is however that the other tenderers will not be aware in the shortfall in hours provided and consequently services to our communities will be affected, with problems all having to be addressed as outside contract and thus delayed by their (P&W) approval process.

Operationally we are now able to report that the installation of LED street lights has been a success with no outages. Similar lights (but solar powered) have been ordered for trial at the Milikapiti barge landing.

Human Resources

Recruitment action has now been completed for the Director of Infrastructure position and the appointee (Karl Sibley, former Housing manager) will arrive on 19 September and Commence work on 23 September.

Training courses in back hoe and Excavator operations are to start soon with staff from Housing, civil works and Township services attending.

Two additional staff (both electrical tradesmen have also recently commenced ESO training. This will provide for us to cover ESO leave absences without the need for outside contractors.

The Department of Housing asset manager for the Tiwi islands has also recently reported how pleased he is with the maturity and progress of several of our Tiwi apprentices, complimenting some of them specifically on the standard of work they have undertaken.

Visitors and Meetings

The CEO met earlier this month with the Darren Johnson from the Department of Housing and the Department of Local Government.

Issues / Options / Consequences

Of particular concern to us now is the number of staff who have been offered full time employment (8-9) but who have either declined or are simply still away in Darwin, because, under current RJCP arrangements< are getting paid whether they go to work or not. Arrangement have been made for the Mayor to speak to the ABC regarding this and related matters later this week.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council notes this report for information

ATTACHMENTS:

There are no attachments for this report.