

**Nhulunbuy Town Board**  
Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting  
Nhulunbuy Corporation Board Room, Nhulunbuy, Northern Territory  
Tuesday 20 September 2016 at 8:44am

**Present**

Angela MacMillan (AMac)	Chairperson (Nhulunbuy Corporation)
Natasha Parkes (NP)	Rio Tinto (RT) Gove Operations
Chris Putland (CP)	Member
Sharon Georganicas (SG)	Member
Gavin Law (GL)	Member
Lyn Percic (LP)	Member
Alyce Fredriksen (AF)	Secretary

**1. Apologies**

Jim Rogers (JR)	NT Government (NTG) Representative
Maria Robbins (MR)	Project Manager, Town Vision (observer)

**2. Conflict of Interest**

N/A

**3. Confirmation of Minutes – 16 August 2016**

**Moved:** NP

**Seconded:** LP

Carried

**4. Business Arising from Minutes**

- Lions Park toilets (05/16): AMac asked the Town Board if they would like to proceed with this project as neither the community nor the majority of the Town Board had identified it as a priority in the discretionary project survey. SG stated that she did not agree with the process in which the Nhulunbuy Corporation went about consulting with the community about the discretionary projects and believed it to be a 'sham'. AMac stated that during previous meetings (at which SG had not been present) it had been raised by LP that there was little opportunity for input from the community to such projects. In response, the Nhulunbuy Corporation proposed a further survey which was agreed to by the Town Board and which allocated a pool of funds to a community wish list of discretionary projects. AMac explained to SG that these discussions were all minuted and the final say on what progressed was had by the Town Board. SG said that she did not participate in this as she objected to the process. AMac said that no feedback had been provided by SG about her concerns so the agreed process had been followed through with in her absence. AMac said that she believed the community and Town Board had been appropriately consulted in response to LP's concerns and that the final projects had not been decided by the Nhulunbuy Corporation or RT as SG had commented. AMac stated toilets in Lions Park can be put onto the discretionary projects list in the future if that is what the community wants.
- Melville Bay Road shoulders (11/16): NP advised RT are currently sourcing quotes to have the shoulders on Melville Bay Road fixed and will provide an update at the next meeting.
- Billing information (14/16): The Nhulunbuy Corporation is looking to include a table outlining the average usage per day on power and water bills to assist bill payers with understanding their consumption rates. This is being discussed with the Corporation's IT system providers. AMac said the Nhulunbuy Corporation are hoping to have tables included on invoices in time for the next billing cycle.

---

Secretary:  
Date:

Chairperson:  
Date:

- Crossing on Matthew Flinders Way (19/16): AMac followed up with the Nhulunbuy High School (NHS) about the current crossing situation. AMac stated NHS are of the view the majority of their students are responsible enough to cross the road without incident and do not need the crossing in place. NHS has advised that they received less than one complaint about students incorrectly crossing at the existing crossing per term and that students tend to cross either further down or up along Matthew Flinders Way. JR to follow up with the Department of Transport about whether it is appropriate to install a pedestrian crossing along Matthew Flinders Way. AMac said that the two options are either to install a pedestrian crossing or remove the existing crossing altogether to mitigate any confusion.
- Community Projects 2017 (24/19): AMac stated that based on the feedback received from the elected Town Board representatives and the community survey, the most popular discretionary projects for 2017 were identified as 1. Shade over the play equipment at Rotary (South) Park, 2. Shade at the Skate Park and 3. Boundary fence at Lions Park along Banyan Road.

## 5. Monthly Operations Report – August 2016

Report tabled and noted. AMac highlighted the following:

### Chief Executive Officer

- Chief Executive Officer recruitment – the successful candidate is Adam Seiler who will complete a one week handover at the Nhulunbuy Corporation in October 2016. Adam is currently employed as acting CEO at Doomadgee Shire Council
- Meeting with Rio Tinto in regards to the Nhulunbuy Aquatic Centre renovations. AMac said the tender documents have not been released by Rio Tinto. However, they were looking to have the work on the chlorine shed commence mid-October 2016 when she last followed up. This work will be followed by the kiosk and change room upgrade. AMac informed all members the Nhulunbuy Corporation's Aquatic Centre Officer has resigned. Recruitment was conducted internally with Shane Guiney the successful candidate
- Meeting with Australian Aboriginal Outreach Missions in regards to camping activity and rubbish concerns behind the church on Chesterfield Circuit. AMac said the Nhulunbuy Police and the Corporation met with the mission and now have an agreement in place that states the toilet facilities must be operating at all times, camping activity is to be minimised wherever possible and the police will conduct random checks to ensure alcohol is not being consumed at the property
- Monthly meeting with the Community Safety Action Committee. AMac mentioned the committee is run by the Nhulunbuy Police and discussions are held around the crime statistics in Nhulunbuy

### Airport Operations

- A flood light pole for enhanced lighting of the General Aviation parking area is on order and will be installed when it arrives. AMac mentioned this was based on feedback given from airport operators
- The driver's window of a hire car was smashed while in the main car park. AMac said this particular hire car was the only car that sustained any damage in the car park at the time. CCTV footage captured the event but the perpetrator has not yet been identified
- An incident with three highly intoxicated men was reported. They were refused entry onto the aircraft and became physically aggressive. MSS Security staff called police and removed the individuals from the building
- Airworks Pty Ltd conducted an onsite visit. They are working on the Gove Airport Development Plan to make sure the facilities are up to scratch without over capitalising
- A VH-UZO Beech 58 aircraft with five people on board operated by Black Diamond undertook a crash landing on the runway due to under carriage failure. The airport was closed for four hours while the wreckage was removed and serviceability of the runway was reinstated. The Emergency Action Plan was activated, no passengers were injured

### Town Operations

- A full check of sprinkler systems was conducted to ensure correct activation times
- The new Arnhem Land Pest Control (ALPC) truck is now due to arrive in November 2016. ALPC are hoping to have this operational for the 2016 Christmas period
- There was a significant rise in domestic dogs found at large in August. There were 25 dogs caught at large, with the owners of 17 dogs receiving infringements. Many dogs impounded were not registered, resulting in additional infringements. AMac said if a dog is caught and it is the owner's first offence, a warning will be given. However, a high number of dogs caught in August were repeat offenders
- Three wild dogs were harvested AMac informed members about fish carcasses that are being dumped behind Datjala Work Camp and the ongoing problems the Corporation is facing with wild dogs being attracted to this waste. AMac informed members the Corporation is aware of who dumped the most recent carcasses and the Nhulunbuy Police have been informed
- No crocodiles were trapped this month. Dhimurru are firm with their stance on refraining from trapping and raising awareness with signage and media releases
- Five feral cats were trapped in August and all were euthanized. A feral cat trapping campaign commenced this month in areas of bushland around Nhulunbuy
- Two buffalo were harvested

### Corporate and Community Services

- One particular building application processed in August included Lot 1672, Gove District Hospital, Matthew Flinders Way – refurbishment of the Accident and Emergency Department. AMac tabled plans for members to view
- 239 Out of Hours Inductions have been completed since February 2016. There are 686 current membership fob holders
- The Community Markets were held on 27 August 2016 at the Town Hall and were hosted by Gove Peninsula Tennis Club. There were 36 stalls in total. No new stalls but two stalls selling Indigenous artwork were well received
- Taylors Carnival was held on 31 August to 2 September 2016 at South Oval. The carnival was very popular amongst young teenagers and families. LP informed AMac she received a complaint from a local resident in regards to where the carnival was setup and the noise level over the three days. AMac reminded members if a resident would like to provide the Corporation with any feedback they can submit it online through our Observation and Feedback form, which is then sent straight to the office email address [office@ncl.net.au](mailto:office@ncl.net.au)

### Feedback (complaints/ compliments/ feedback and suggestions)

Nine complaints were received during August. Seven of these were addressed to the satisfaction of the complainants. Two complaints are currently unresolved and the team continue to work on these.

### In Kind Support

Date received	Organisation	Activity	Support granted	Financial cost
2 August 2016	Runners North	Half Marathon	Use of 10 traffic bollards, 20 witches hats and 2 water coolers	-

Secretary:  
Date:

Chairperson:  
Date:

8 August 2016	Nhulunbuy Rotary Club	Beach Volleyball	Use of plant equipment, staff to operate plant equipment, rubbish bins and bags, trestle tables and portable toilets	\$1,610
23 August 2016	Arnhem Regional School Sport	Training School Sport Championships	Use of Hindle Oval	\$456
25 August 2016	Nhulunbuy Motorcycle Club	Carry out earthworks	Use of loader	\$250
25 August 2016	Town Vision	Election Day	Use of marquee	\$100
Month total				\$2,666
<b>Year to Date</b>				<b>\$16,432.83</b>

## 6. Correspondence

### *In*

- Mobile Vendor and Service Provider application – Soul'full Salads had their application approved by the Board out of session 8 September 2016
- Email from Janine Beavis to Jim Rogers – school bus stop shelter. AMac mentioned Janine has requested the Corporation consider placing bus stop shelters and seating at school stops around town to give children a dry area to sit waiting for the bus to arrive. AMac said as JR is absent from the meeting the item will remain on the action list to discuss in the next meeting

### *Out*

- N/A

## 7. Town Vision Update

AMac tabled the Project Monthly Report for September/October 2016.

CP raised significant concerns about the Town Vision project - specifically, its intent, purpose and what has or has not been achieved. CP said he engages with many residents in Nhulunbuy and a number have said they do not understand the vision or do they know what is coming out of the project.

CP said the Project Monthly Report that is tabled at each meeting does not state what is being achieved. CP mentioned he understands Rio Tinto have put the vision in place as part of the curtailment promises but asked what realistically the Town Vision achieved in the last six months.

CP stated the Town Vision is not engaging with the community and he is concerned if something is not changed now the project will not meet its primary purpose.

LP said she finds there is quite a lot of momentum with community interest around Town Vision. LP said the Town Vision project has been set up to identify certain things residents and business owners in Nhulunbuy would like to see happen over the next 5-7 years. LP said MR is here to identify those things and help the project be implemented before her departure in 2017.

GL said he has noticed that despite the Town Vision having tables at every community market, and a number of forums and events, there does not appear to be a lot of interest in amongst residents to actually commit to taking action. GL said residents in the town are not taking an interest to find out what the vision is all about and the process behind the strategy. Rather, they

Secretary:  
Date:

Chairperson:  
Date:

seem to be waiting for others to take the necessary actions to deliver the outcomes that they themselves said they wanted to see.

CP said if there is a real focus and a want for the project Rio Tinto need to fund it better to make it successful.

AMac informed members MR will send a Town Vision update via email for September 2016 and that such significant concerns should be raised with MR directly.

## **8. General Business**

### **– Asbestos incident follow up**

AMac tabled an incident report for Town Board members to view. The asbestos material was located in artwork stored in the Nhulunbuy Corporation's boardroom. AMac said the report includes an overall description of the incident, the Corporation's key findings and learnings, broader organisational weaknesses and human performance observations.

AMac said the Nhulunbuy Corporation has addressed the incident internally and taken steps to improve its policies and procedures.

AMac stated the most important thing to note is the risk of exposure to those who came into contact with the artwork was extremely low to negligible and all pieces have now been disposed of in the asbestos pit.

### **– Telecommunications incident follow up**

AMac tabled an incident report for Town Board members to view. AMac said on the 24 August 2016, the Nhulunbuy Corporation was clearing a blocked drain on Melville Bay Road with a backhoe. The operator was removing a tree root when one of the backhoe teeth penetrated a conduit containing Telstra telecommunications cabling. Two fibre optic cables were severed. Telecommunications (landline, mobile and data) throughout the Gove Peninsula were impacted with no services available for five hours and limited service availability for up to 23 hours. AMac informed members there were no injuries sustained as a result of the event.

AMac said the Nhulunbuy Corporation acknowledges that the team was operating outside the town lease which is not permitted. The Corporation team did not follow their own Excavation Policy. AMac informed the Board she interviewed all of the team members involved in the incident as well as the managers involved. The excavation process has now been improved and the teams are now dialling before they dig on every project.

### **– East Arnhem Alcohol Reference Group (EAARG)**

LP informed Town Board she is a member on the EAARG and they are bringing a workshop to Nhulunbuy in regards to the alcohol rules and the permit system in Nhulunbuy.

LP said the workshop will discuss what is in place now and what changes may be considered. The workshop will take place on 13 October 2016.

### **– Nhulunbuy Local General Practice (GP)**

LP asked the Town Board members if they wish to do something about the GP closing and the difficulties the practice has had in securing the lease of the premises.

CP said Dr Colin Smith was due to depart Nhulunbuy in January 2017 regardless. CP said the GP issue belongs with the Northern Territory Government as a primary healthcare issue. CP also said that the doctor has been offered the same opportunity to lease houses through Developing East Arnhem Limited like all other business owners in Nhulunbuy.

GL stated the GP is a private medical practice and does not fall under the public hospital system or the emergency system.

GL said the Gove District Hospital is currently under renovation and residents will not be left without medical facilities. GL said he would much rather see the GP open than closed. However, the Town Board agreed that they are not obligated to lobby support for a private business that has made the decision to close its doors.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting ended at 11:04am.

Next meeting: Tuesday 18 October 2016 at 8:30am.