

Nhulunbuy Town Board Inc.
Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting
Nhulunbuy Corporation Board Room, Nhulunbuy, Northern Territory
Tuesday 17 November 2015 at 8:30am

Present

Angela MacMillan (AMac)	Chairperson (Nhulunbuy Corporation)
Sarah Thurgood (ST)	Rio Tinto Alcan (RTA) Gove Operations
Jordy Bowman (JB)	Proxy for Jim Rogers
Lyn Percic (LP)	Member
Gavin Law (GL)	Member
Chris Putland (CP)	Member
Sharon Georgonicas (SG)	Member
Alyce Fredriksen (AF)	Secretary

1. Apologies

Jim Rogers (JR) NT Government (NTG) Representative

AMac welcomed all members to the last Town Board Meeting for 2015, thanked all members for their efforts throughout the year.

2. Conflict of Interest

N/A

3. Datjala Work Camp- Superintendent Kevin Raby (KR)

On 10 November 2015, the Northern Territory Police informed the residents of Nhulunbuy that a prisoner had absconded from the Datjala Work Camp. The prisoner had a number of convictions for offences including rape, manslaughter and murder. On 11 November 2015, the prisoner handed himself in to police.

AMac introduced and welcomed Superintendent Kevin Raby, General Manager of Regional Operations for the NT Department of Correctional Services (Corrections) to the Town Board Meeting to discuss the incident.

KR acknowledged Corrections made a significant error in transferring the prisoner to the Datjala Work Camp and stated that the Department is committed to working with the community to overcome their mistrust and anger.

The Town Board raised significant concerns about:

- How the prisoner escaped in the first place and what was being done to ensure that this does not happen again
- How the prisoner came to be in the Sentenced to a Job program as a convicted sex offender. Particularly when Corrections had made a public commitment when Datjala moved into Nhulunbuy that sex offenders were not eligible for the program.
- The response process, both with regards to the organisations that were notified when the prisoner escaped and the seemingly misalignment of the reaction of law enforcement compared with the messaging given by Corrections
- There was a large amount of goodwill afforded to Corrections when the camp moved to town, which was based on trust and public commitments given by the Department. The program has contributed positively to the community since. There is now anger, frustration and disappointment throughout residents that the good faith they held in Corrections to do the right thing by the agreement has now been eroded and the Department will need to show over time that they are genuinely committed to doing the right thing.

Secretary:
Date:

Chairperson:
Date:

KR responded to these concerns by:

- Discussing the measures that are being put in place to ensure a situation like the above does not happen again. These include following directives from the NT Minister for Corrections that there are to be no convicted sex offenders or murderers included in the Sentenced to a Job program anywhere in the NT and all prisoners going forward will now also be required to wear electronic, curfew-based tags
- KR stated there were numerous discussions held between himself, the Corrections Commissioner and others before a decision was made to transfer the prisoner to Datjala Work Camp. The classification system is why the prisoner was selected to be transferred. The system assesses the risk based in the prisoners behaviour not their offence. KR clarified a low risk offender is someone who has completed all required programs, behaved within the correctional system and 'ticked all the boxes' in regards to security. KR mentioned it is ultimately the Commissioner's decision to have a particular prisoner sent to the Datjala Work Camp. KR informed the Board the prisoner has been within the correctional system for many years without incident. KR stated that Corrections have an obligation to get prisoners back into the community which means assessing risks individually and determining whether they are appropriate for each program. In this case, KR acknowledged that the wrong decision was made.
- KR agreed the reaction to the prisoner's escape verses his classification as a low risk prisoner was misleading to the public. KR stated that he now understands how the police's response to the incident (road blocks, Tactical Response Group involvement) lead to fear within the community. KR committed to the Board going forward that Corrections will work closer with the police and set up a contact list should something like this happen again.

KR informed the Board Corrections will hold a town forum for residents next week to allow them to ask questions and receive more information about the incident, to explain the steps now being taken to mitigate any further risk and talk about the future of the Datjala Work Camp in general. Acting Commissioner Mark Payne will attend the forum with the NT Minister for Corrections. KR stated he is also happy to meet with individual groups and people to discuss any concerns and issues directly.

4. Confirmation of Minutes – 20 October 2015

Moved: CP

Seconded: ST

Carried

5. Business Arising from Minutes

- Development of the walkway and beach access (07/14): Work will be finalised by 31 December 2015.
- Visual access to the Pool (49/14): The Nhulunbuy Corporation has purchased a banner to be installed along the fence line to restrict visual access to the Nhulunbuy Aquatic Centre.
- Power Supply (27/15): The Nhulunbuy Corporation electrician has reviewed and made adjustments to the sockets to rectify issues in the Hindle Oval canteen. He is also conducting an electrical audit on the Town Hall to understand its current state and will draft recommendations for improvements.
- Sport and Recreation Facility Master Plan (32/15): AMac sent an email to Town Board members on 11 November 2015 about the NT Government's Sports and Recreation Master Plan. More information about this program is being sought to establish whether the Nhulunbuy Corporation's gap analysis of sport and recreation facilities within town will overlap.

Secretary:

Date:

Chairperson:

Date:

- NBNC0 (33/15): AMac emailed the Town Board with information about NBN's obligations on 26 October 2015 and advised that any complaints should be directed to the NBN complaints team directly.
- Community Assistance Application Form (34/15): The Nhulunbuy Corporation has committed to ensuring that the Community Recreation Officer is discussing details of applications for Partnership Program funding with applicant groups and providing a recommendation to the Town Board as to whether she believes the application fits within the policy.

6. Monthly Operations Report – October 2015

Report tabled and noted. AMac highlighted the following:

Chief Executive Officer

- AMac informed the Board that she arranged for Royal Life Saving (RLS) NT to complete a safety assessment on the Nhulunbuy Aquatic Centre. RLS completed this assessment on 20 October 2015 and provided Nhulunbuy Corporation with a Number of recommendations for improvements. AMac stated there is no legislation for public pool safety or management, so the Nhulunbuy Corporation is best guided by the RLS Pool Operations Guidelines. This means that the current operating model is under review and community consultation will be conducted around the changes.
- AMac attended the Inaugural Municipal Service NT conference in Alice Springs.
- Senator Nova Peris and Shadow Communications Minister Jason Clare visited the Nhulunbuy Corporation on 27 October 2015 to discuss communications with AMac.
- AMac met with Rio Tinto on 30 October 2015 to discuss the pre-cyclone season inspection process. Hard waste collection for pre-cyclone clean-up will commence at the end of November 2015.

Airport Operations

- Movement area sweeping is being conducted to remove all loose stones from the landing strip following complaints from Airnorth.
- Aerodrome Management Services conducted the annual Technical Inspection of Gove Airport. The airport was found to be operating safely with no significant findings of non-compliances.
- The checked baggage x-ray machine failed and the contingency procedure was implemented until the fault was remedied some 48 hours later.

Town Operations

- Graham Sutton has resigned from his role as Manager, Town Operations. This position will be advertised. Clyde Wade, Depot Supervisor is currently acting Manager, Town Operations and can be contacted on 0407 972 550.
- Broken sprinklers continue to be repaired around town mainly due to vandalism.
- The area directly behind the Nhulunbuy Aquatic Centre was a focus for noxious weeds and coffee bush.
- Animal control reported seven dogs found at large during the month of October. 153 dogs have currently been registered since 31 October 2015. Four wild dogs were harvested this month. One Crocodile was harvested in the Town Lagoon and disposed of according to Dhimurru protocols.

Corporate and Community Services

- An Aquatic Fun Day was held on 2 October 2015 with free entry and a free BBQ. The Nhulunbuy Corporation served over 250 sausages. Kids attended both from Arnhem Early Learning Centre vacation care, Neighbourhood Centre, Anglicare and the general public.
- Community Markets held on 17 October were hosted by Gove Rugby Union and were the busiest markets of the year so far with a total of 46 stalls.

- The Tidy Town Awards held on 23 October saw the Nhulunbuy Corporation win NT Best Large Community 2015 award after a strong clean-up campaign conducted by Anna McDonald and the Town Operations team.

Town Feedback (complaints/ compliments/ feedback and suggestions)

One complaint was received during the month. This complaint was addressed in writing to the complainant.

In Kind Support

Date received	Organisation	Activity	Support granted	Financial cost
5 October	Cemetery Trust	Move 14.4 Tonne of Rock (Barge to Cemetery)	2 x Depot Team Members	\$400
5 October	Arnhem Early Learning Centre	School Holiday Disco	Town Hall	\$125
17 October	Speedway	Earthworks	Use of Loader	\$520
22 October	Arnhem Regional School Sport	Interschool Soccer Competition	BBQ Trailer	\$50
24 October	Speedway	Earthworks	Use of Loader	\$520
31 October	Speedway	Earthworks	Use of Loader	\$520
Month total				\$2,135.00
Year to Date				\$23,258.52

7. Correspondence

N/A

8. General Business

– Fencing Policy

Tabled

The Nhulunbuy Corporation has broadened the scope of the new Fencing Policy to allow all residents to have front fences rather than just South and Contractors. The Board had no issues with the policy as long as all applications for fencing still progress through the Building Application process.

AMac informed the Board the Fencing Policy will be made public after endorsement from the Board of Directors and uploaded onto the Nhulunbuy Corporation website.

– CAP Application - Gove Peninsula Surf Life Saving Club

The Gove Peninsula Surf Life Saving Club applied for the Partnership Program to improve the existing playground area by installing a shade sail and replacing the old sand with new sand. The improvement will make the Surf Club more family friendly and enhance the playground for kids using the facility.

It was resolved that: The Town Board approved the CAP Application that was submitted by the Gove Peninsula Surf Life Saving Club for the value of \$2,500.

Secretary:

Date:

Chairperson:

Date:

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting ended at 10:49am.

Next meeting: Tuesday 19 January 2016 at 8:30am

Secretary:
Date:

Chairperson:
Date: