

Nhulunbuy Town Board
Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting
Nhulunbuy Corporation Board Room, Nhulunbuy, Northern Territory
Tuesday 18 October 2016 at 8:37am

Present

Adam Seiler (AS)	Chairperson (Nhulunbuy Corporation)
Jim Rogers (JR)	NT Government (NTG) Representative
Maria Robbins (MR)	Project Manager, Town Vision (observer)
Natasha Parkes (NP)	Rio Tinto (RT) Gove Operations
Sharon Georgonicas (SG)	Member
Gavin Law (GL)	Member
Lyn Percic (LP)	Member
Chris Putland (CP)	Member
Alyce Fredriksen (AF)	Secretary

1. Apologies

Nil

2. Conflict of Interest

N/A

3. Appointment of Adam Seiler as Chairperson Nhulunbuy Town Board

Town Board members appointed Adam Seiler as the new Chairperson for the Nhulunbuy Town Board. Two documents were tabled these included the endorsed acceptance letter from Adam Seiler and a completed member Contact Details form.

Moved: CP

Seconded: LP

4. Confirmation of Minutes – 20 September 2016

Moved: GL

Seconded: NP

Carried

5. Business Arising from Minutes

- Melville Bay Road shoulders (11/16): NP advised Rio Tinto (RT) are currently sourcing quotes to have the shoulders on Melville Bay Road fixed. NP to provide members with a date or time frame RT expect these works to commence.
- Billing information (14/16): The Nhulunbuy Corporation (NCL) 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. NCL are hoping to have tables included on invoices in time for the next billing cycle. CEO to provide members with an update when more details are available.
- Crossing on Matthew Flinders Way (19/16): NCL followed up with the Nhulunbuy High School (NHS) about the current crossing situation. 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 have received, on average, less than one complaint per term about students incorrectly crossing at the existing crossing and that students predominantly cross either further down or up along Matthew Flinders Way. The two options are either to install a pedestrian crossing or remove the existing crossing altogether to mitigate any confusion. JR has tried to make contact with the Department of

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Transport about whether it is appropriate to install a pedestrian crossing along Matthew Flinders Way and is waiting on a response. JR said he does recall the last report stated there wasn't sufficient traffic on Matthew Flinders Way to warrant the pedestrian crossing. JR to provide members with an update to the November meeting.

- Town Vision update (26/16): MR to email all Town Board members the latest Town Vision update for September 2016. Action completed, email sent 11 October 2016.
- Bus shelters at schools (27/16): Members to discuss in the October meeting with JR the email he received from Janine Beavis about whether to install bus shelters for school children throughout Nhulunbuy. Members stated discussions were held in the September Town Board meeting and don't believe the action needs to be continued.

6. Monthly Operations Report – September 2016

Report tabled and noted. AS asked members if they have any questions about the components in the report.

JR raised the question of what is the reporting process in Nhulunbuy between RT and the Department of Environment and Health around water treatment and testing. JR asked if the water in Nhulunbuy has fluoridation added and what is the regulatory framework for supplying portable water.

CP said there is currently no fluoridation of water in Nhulunbuy. A Fluoridation Plant facility was installed in Nhulunbuy many years ago and had continuous maintenance issues from day one. CP mentioned the Fluoridation Plant was deemed unnecessary and with the costs involved was placed in the too hard basket.

LP said she has raised concerns in previous Town Board meetings around residents not being informed that there is no fluoridation added to water in Nhulunbuy.

JR informed members as a standard across the Northern Territory (NT) Power and Water Corporation fluoridates water. JR said as a user and resident in town the water issue from his perspective is that there is no data recorded on what's supplied in Nhulunbuy nor is there available information about the quality of our water in town.

An action was taken for NP to investigate the following:

- Does the town of Nhulunbuy fluoridate water
- How often is water testing is conducted
- Where are the results reported to or whom
- What are the additives added to the water
- Is information made publicly available

Moved: CP

Seconded: SG

Feedback (complaints/ compliments/ feedback and suggestions)

Five complaints were received during September. All of these were addressed to the satisfaction of the complainants.

In Kind Support

Date received	Organisation	Activity	Support granted	Financial cost

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15 September 2016	Nhulunbuy Primary School Council	School Fete	Bounce Castle	\$400
15 September 2016	Nhulunbuy BMX Club	Stabilize the track surface	Bitumen Machine	\$100
15 September 2016	Nhulunbuy High School	Family Fun Day	Nhulunbuy Aquatic Centre	\$305
30 September 2016	Women's Christmas Gift Exchange	Women's Wellbeing event	Town Hall	\$1,300
Month total				\$2,105
Year to Date				\$18,537.80

7. Correspondence

In

- Resignation: Angela MacMillan as Chairperson of the Nhulunbuy Town Board effective 7 October 2016. Town Board members accepted the resignation from Angela MacMillan.
Moved: GL
Seconded: NP

Out

- N/A

8. Town Vision Update

MR tabled the Project Monthly Report for October/November 2016.

MR addressed comments made in the previous Town Board meeting regarding Rio Tinto support for the Town Vision, in particular funding. MR provided an update on Rio Tinto support to date including non-financial support both of which have been considerable. MR stressed support required for the Town Vision is not financial.

MR also addressed comments regarding the content of the monthly Project reports provided, clearly documenting what has been achieved and what is planned, along with status of each milestone/activity.

MR clarified Town Vision is an umbrella of everything that is happening in the Nhulunbuy community not just one individual project. The Town Vision project is to support the community to be self-sufficient and sustainable.

CP stated he is finding it hard to see what the commitment is from RT to see the town of Nhulunbuy through this long term process. AS mentioned the Town Vision project is designed to be something engaged by the community. RT have supplied funding to start the process through the engagement of MR, NCL are a participatory player and can't be seen as driving the project. AS said the Vision has to be driven by the Nhulunbuy community for it to be successful.

CP questioned if Town Vision has community involvement and engagement. MR said often with projects like the Town Vision where it's fundamentally about behavioral and cultural change there are some tangible elements, however not all outcomes are tangible. MR mentioned the first few months is about stakeholder engagement, creating awareness and education before you can get buy-in and commitment from the community. MR informed members there is a good group of residents in the Nhulunbuy community who understand the Town Vision and process behind it.

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SG stated the problem she sees doesn't lie with the project itself or the way it is being run. The problem is with the lack of faith the community have with RT to spend dollars to support the upgrade of the town.

GL said there is definitely a big group of residents who are not engaged and do not have an understanding of the Town Vision. GL mentioned he believes this is because there is nothing in the Town Vision project right now for residents that is immediate and tangible. The Town Vision project ultimately aims to achieve a sustainable community in Nhulunbuy beyond mining, a strong healthy thriving community. GL said residents need to want to be involved and engaged to understand the Town Vision.

MR said success measures have been developed and actions are starting to be measured against those over the next couple of months so informed decisions can be made around the project itself. MR informed members there are one of three likely project outcomes based on the success measure results:

- Tracking quite well, consider keeping the project open for a short extended period;
- Community is ready to take the project on and manage themselves with Governance in place to oversee the project; or,
- Despite best efforts, results of measures indicate the project can no longer justify continuing.

MR clarified her focus moving forward is to make sure all five streams are owned by organisations. Once this is complete MR will then work alongside Governance members to manage the streams themselves.

JR said there is a need to think about how a process or project of this size is to be managed beyond February 2017 when MR departs the role of Project Manager. JR said from his experience the 75 action implementation plan is quite large. JR mentioned he is very unsure if it can be serviced and managed beyond not having a project manager.

9. General Business

– Nhulunbuy Animal Control By-Laws

AS tabled the Nhulunbuy Animal Control Amendment By-Laws for 2016. AF mentioned the significant changes to note:

- Microchipping of all dogs on the Nhulunbuy Town Lease will be mandatory;
- All impounded dogs must microchipped prior to being released from the pound;
- NCL will be able to seize dogs that are deemed to be at risk through neglect or mistreatment;
- Confirmation of a maximum of two dogs to be kept at each property unless specifically approve by NCL; and,
- Confirmation that all outstanding fees, charges and infringements are to be paid prior to the release of impounded dogs.

AS said the Nhulunbuy Animal Control Amendment By-Laws will be presented to the Board of Directors on Thursday 20 October 2016 for consideration and subsequent adoption. Once completed, all information will be forwarded to the Department of Local Government and Community Services to facilitate the gazettal process. Documents are then submitted to Parliament for reading and acceptance.

CP asked what is the process that will be followed by NCL for those residents who have more than two dogs kept at one property and do not hold a special dog permit once the new by-laws are active. AS clarified there will only be a grandfather arrangement for those residents who have done the right thing and currently hold a special dog permit. AS stated

for those residents who do not hold a special dog permit once the by-laws are gazetted will be in breach.

CP asked if NCL have any plans around implementing by-laws for cats. AF said discussions have been held around other animal by-laws for cats, chickens/roosters and pigs. AS mentioned this is something that is already on the Corporation's radar.

Town Board members would like to recommend the adoption of the Nhulunbuy Animal Control Amendment By-Laws for 2016 to the Board of Directors.

Moved: GL

Seconded: SG

– **Adoption of Fees Animal Management**

AS tabled a one page report stating the approved fee changes for Animal Control effective 1 November 2016. For noting the principle focus around the changes is to encourage residents of Nhulunbuy to desex their animals. AS said NCL are not offering life registration for whole dogs but will continue to offer this for desexed dogs. AF mentioned any whole dogs that were previously registered for life before the 1 November 2016 will continue to hold a life time registration.

Changes that were tabled (inclusive of GST):

Desexed dog (with certificate form vet)	\$20 per animal
Whole dog	\$100 per animal
Desexed dog owned by concession card holder	\$5 per animal
Whole dog owned by concession card holder	\$75 per animal
Guide/companion dog (with certificate)	Free
Application annual fee to keep 2 or more dogs at one property	\$105 per animal
Lifetime registration desexed dog	\$120 per animal
Impound fees (GST free)	\$30 per day/animal
Microchip implantation	\$95 per animal

Moved: GL

Seconded: JR

– **Community Assistance Program**

AS informed all members the Community Assistance Program has now opened for the final quarter in 2016. AF mentioned applications are due back to the NCL office by Friday 4 November 2016 and will go to the Town Board for decision on 15 November 2016.

– **Alcohol Reference Group (ARG)**

LP sent an email to all members on 16 October 2016 that included notes from the previous ARG meeting held on 13 October 2016, email was tabled.

JR stated he would like to know what Town Board members think the key issues are around alcohol and the attitude in Nhulunbuy as he believes LP is trying to get solid feedback into the process. JR mentioned the community buy-in to make changes in previous discussions around alcohol in Nhulunbuy was very significant and the reality is change can only happen if there is a strong community will to make the change that out ways the other interests.

GL informed members he attend the ARG meeting with LP and stated it was more of an advisory group, there was no response given to whom the group advises or correlates information with. GL said the next forum really needs to clarify the original terms of reference.

GL asked for all Town Board members to reply to the email LP sent and list any questions or concerns they may have. This information will be tabled and asked at the next ARG meeting.

– **Welcome Adam Seiler**

CP welcomed AS to the Town Board and indicated he would like to acknowledge his involvement now, ongoing and good luck.

– **Gove Barra's - Nhulunbuy Amateur Swimming Club**

SG said quite a few Town Board members have been approached by Gove Barra's Amateur Swimming Club whom have stated they felt they are not being given equal access to the use of the Nhulunbuy Aquatic Centre and the negotiation process they are following with NCL is not getting anywhere.

SG informed all members there has been no issues between the two parties involved (Gove Barra's and Travelling Tadpoles), however there seems to be disputes happening around usage of lanes and available times at the aquatic centre. Gove Barra's have made comment that they feel that NCL are not being flexible while working on Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) arrangements.

CP requested if the Town Board can seek information on where the resolution is up to between all parties involved.

AS informed the Town Board, NCL will follow-up and establish a meeting up with Gove Barra's, Travelling Tadpole and NCL to discuss the MOU.

– **Arafura Times**

JR informed members there are other entities interested in taking over the Arafura Times and options for a Nhulunbuy based community newspaper.

– **General Practice (GP)**

JR said the NT Government are providing direct support and are working through a sale process for the GP with Top End Health to finalise the outcome. JR said NT Government have always supported and will continue to provide, the GP in particular, the clinic building to the operator. NT Government do not have any plans to change this moving forward.

JR said all health records are available to each individual. These records will transfer under previous legislation between providers. JR informed members if there is a gap between service provisions, NT Government will look at resourcing the hospital to cover that gap. JR said this will be a stop gap measure and will make sure there is continuity in primary health care.

– **Developing East Arnhem Land (DEAL) Housing**

SG said a particular phycologist in town is having a number of issues trying to apply and be granted housing through DEAL. SG stated she believes the Town Board should support the request of this particular person's application to be approved as having access to this particular type of service is something residents in Nhulunbuy haven't always had.

AS stated he has taken the topic and issue on board as a general business. AS will set up a meeting with DEAL to enable him to fully understand the issue at hand.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairperson declared the meeting close at 10:58am.

Next meeting: Tuesday 15 November 2016 at 8:30am.

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