



MCKINLAY SHIRE COUNCIL

CONFIRMED MINUTES

OF THE

SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL

HELD AT THE

BOARDROOM, CIVIC CENTRE
JULIA CREEK

2nd November 2021

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Opening
2. Attendance
- 2.1 Appointment
3. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

4. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

4.1 Consider a Report from the Director Corporate & Community Services regarding the Audit Committee

4.2 Consider the appointment of the new Chief Executive Officer

4.3 To further discuss the proposal by nbn Australia seeking to undertake a planning exercise and build quotation for the next round of funding applications under the Regional Connectivity Program which may include an appointment/s with industry experts.

5. CLOSE

1. OPENING BUSINESS ▲

All Councillors having signed the attendance book, Mayor Philip Curr declared the meeting open at 8:45am.

2. ATTENDANCE ▲

Mayor: Cr. P Curr

Members: Cr. J Fegan, Cr. T Pratt, Cr. S Royes, Cr. J Lynch

Staff:

Chief Executive Officer, Mr. John Kelly

Executive Assistant, Mrs. Melissa Mussig

Director of Corporate & Community Services, Ms. Tenneil Cody

Director of Engineering, Environment and Regulatory Services, Mr. Cameron Scott

Corporate Services Officer, Russell Hinwood for item 3

Other people in attendance:

Mr William Harrington, Wi-Sky at 9.30a.m.

Ms Casie Scott, nbn Local at 11.30a.m.

Mr Stuart McDonald, nbn Local at 11.30a.m.

Apologies:

Nil

3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST ▲

Nil

4.0 ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION ▲

4.1 Consider a Report from the Director Corporate & Community Services regarding the Audit Committee

An Audit Committee was established in 2014 in accordance with legislation requirements. Due to changes McKinlay Shire is no longer required to have an Audit Committee, and this report is presented to Council to consider ceasing the Audit Committee.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council resolve to cease having an Audit Committee on the grounds that:

- a) with the re-categorization of McKinlay Shire to a category 1 Council, an Audit Committee is no longer required under the legislation for Cat. 1 local governments, and*
- b) the full Council as a whole will be presented with the Audit Plan, internal audit progress reports, financial statements and the auditor-general's audit report and auditor-general's observation report about Council's financial statements for the preceding financial year,*

and correspondence be sent to the Community member of the Committee thanking them for their contributions to the committee over the years.

Resolution No. 100/2122

That Council resolve to cease having an Audit Committee on the grounds that:

a) with the re-categorization of McKinlay Shire to a category 1 Council, an Audit Committee is no longer required under the legislation for Cat. 1 local governments, and

b) the full Council as a whole will be presented with the Audit Plan, internal audit progress reports, financial statements and the auditor-general's audit report and auditor-general's observation report about Council's financial statements for the preceding financial year,

and correspondence be sent to the Community member of the Committee thanking them for their contributions to the committee over the years.

Moved Cr. J. Lynch

Seconded Cr. S. Royes

CARRIED 5/0

4.2 Consider the appointment of the new Chief Executive Officer

The contract for the current Chief Executive Officer ends on the 31st December 2021 unless terminated earlier by Council. To ensure a smooth transition, applications were invited and twenty responses were received.

Following the first-round interviews, the preferred candidate has been invited to visit Julia Creek on 31st Oct and 1st Nov for face-to-face discussions with the full Council and to enable him to meet available staff and to inspect Council facilities and our Town.

This report summarises the recruitment processes and presents a recommendation for Council consideration should the face-to-face discussions be positive.

RECOMMENDATION

"That Council:

*a) Appoint **(Here insert Name)** to be Chief Executive Officer of McKinlay Shire Council for a term of five years commencing on Monday 6th December 2021,*

*b) Authorise the Mayor to finalise a contract of employment with **(Here insert Name)** substantially along the lines of the draft discussed in the Special meeting and as advertised.*

Resolution No. 101/2122

"That Council:

*a) Appoint **Trevor Graeme Williams** to be Chief Executive Officer of McKinlay Shire Council for a term of five years commencing on Monday 6th December 2021,*

*b) Authorise the Mayor to finalise a contract of employment with **Trevor Graeme Williams** substantially along the lines of the draft discussed in the Special meeting and as advertised.*

Moved Cr. J. Lynch

Seconded Cr. T. Pratt

CARRIED 5/0

4.3 To further discuss the proposal by **nbn** Australia seeking to undertake a planning exercise and build quotation for the next round of funding applications under the Regional Connectivity Program which may include an appointment/s with industry experts.

At the meeting held on Tuesday 19th October Council received a presentation via Zoom from the Community Engagement Manager for North Queensland NBN, Ms Casie Scott inviting Council to authorise them to undertake a planning exercise and quotation to build the network required to connect the town of Julia Creek to the NBN Network.

This work is required to put Council in a position to apply for funding through the Australian government *Regional Connectivity Program* with the second round of applications expected to open and close within the next two months.

Council adopted the following resolution:

Resolution No. 94/2122:

“Council thanks the representatives from NBN – North Queensland for their update on the prospects for nbn technology upgrade for McKinlay Shire and advise that Council will seek further information before committing to the project.”

Following that decision, further information has been sought and is submitted for ongoing consideration of this matter.

RECOMMENDATION:

Council instructs the CEO to make a submission to the Regional Connectivity Program through their current consultation process to press for improved independent information and guidance to individuals, to Communities and to Local Government to enable more informed decision making around internet technology connectivity.

Attendance:

At this time 9.15a.m. Council Corporate Services Officer Mr Russell Hinwood attended the Meeting.

Mr William Harrington Wi-Sky attended the meeting via teleconference and explained to Council that his wireless internet services to the Town of Julia Creek and to the northern parts of the Shire via a series of towers along the Wills Development road and Council’s water tower is now live. He further gave Council valuable advice on how his service and the nbn could exist in parallel. After responding to a number of questions from Councillors and staff, the Mayor thanked Mr Harrington for his attendance and he left the meeting.

Resolution No. 102/2122

Council instructs the CEO to make a submission to the Regional Connectivity Program through their current consultation process to press for improved independent information and guidance to individuals, to Communities and to Local Government to enable more informed decision making around internet technology connectivity.

Moved Cr. J. Fegan

Seconded Cr. P. Curr

CARRIED 5/0

The Meeting was adjourned at 9:47am to enable representatives of nbn Local to attend the meeting via teleconference at 11.30a.m..

The Meeting was reconvened 11:30am

Attendance: Appointment nbn North Queensland

At this time Casie Scott, Community Engagement Manager and Stuart McDonald of **nbn** North Queensland joined the meeting via teleconference and spoke to their proposal seeking approval from Council to undertake the planning and estimating the cost of building the network to bring the National Broadband Network to Julia Creek and to enable Council to lodge an application under the Regional Connectivity Program for funding to connect Julia Creek Township to the NBN.

After questions and explanations, the Mayor thanked Ms Casie Scott and Mr Stuart McDonald for their presentation and advised that Council would consider this matter later in the meeting.

Attendance: At 12 noon the **nbn** representatives left the meeting

Resolution No. 103/2122

*Council advise Ms Casie Scott, Community Engagement Manager North Queensland **nbn Local** that Council would like to proceed with the preparation of a build cost to bring the national broadband network to the town of Julia Creek thereby enabling Council to be in a position to submit a funding application to the Regional Connectivity Program in the forthcoming second round of RCP funding."*

Moved Cr. J Lynch

Seconded Cr. J. Fegan

CARRIED 5/0

5. CLOSURE OF MEETING



The Chair of the meeting Mayor Philip Curr declared the meeting closed at 12:20pm.