

**Minutes of the Litchfield Council Meeting
held on Wednesday, 15 March 2017
Council Chambers, Bees Creek Road, Freds Pass
at 6:00pm**

Present	Maree Bredhauer Christine Osborn Kirsty Hunt Doug Barden Letchimi Wright	Mayor Deputy Mayor / Councillor Central Ward Councillor West Ward Councillor South Ward Councillor North Ward
Staff	Kaylene Conrick David Kingston David Jan Karina Gates Wendy Smith Debbie Branson	Chief Executive Officer Director Infrastructure & Operations Acting Director of Community & Corporate Services Finance Manager Planning & Development Manager Executive Assistant
Public	Susan Statham Marlene Watt Mandy Hammett Mel Hammett Sarah Gordon Mary Walshe Tina Sacca Helen Gordon	Blackmore Humpty Doo Humpty Doo Humpty Doo Girraween Humpty Doo Humpty Doo Humpty Doo

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

The Mayor opened the meeting and welcomed members of the public.

Audio Disclaimer

An audio recording of this meeting is being made for minute taking purposes as authorised by the Chief Executive Officer.

Acknowledgement

The Mayor acknowledged that the meeting was held on the traditional country of the Larrakia people and paid her respects to the Elders past and present for their continuing custodianship of the land and the children of this land across generations.

2. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Cr Hunt – Leave of Absence – 5 April 2017 – 20 April 2017.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved: Cr Osborn
Seconded: Cr Barden

THAT the full minutes of the Council Meeting held 15 February 2017, 17 pages, be confirmed.

CARRIED-17/0042

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Moved: Cr Hunt
Seconded: Cr Wright

THAT the Action Plan be received and noted with no changes.

CARRIED-17/0043

5. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Nil.

6. PRESENTATIONS

Nil.

7. PETITIONS

Nil.

8. PUBLIC FORUM

8.1 Helen Gordon – Proposed Dog Registrations

Ms Gordon attended the meeting tonight with a view that the amendments to the Animal Management By-Laws would be discussed.

The Mayor welcomed Ms Gordon to comment on the By-Laws which will be noted and encouraged Ms Gordon to make a submission as they are available for public consultation.

Ms Gordon stated that she didn't understand why the Council had to introduce a new By-Law when there is already an existing by-law.

The Mayor thanked Ms Gordon for comments.

8.2 Mary Walshe – Various

Mrs Walshe referred to the minutes of the previous Council meeting held 15 February 2017 and referred to item 17.4 and advised the signage referred to Pioneer and Anglesey. Mrs Walshe added that she still hadn't received any feedback in relation to what the sign should be.

Mrs Walshe thanked Council for listening to residents and extending the consultation period until after tonight's meeting in relation to the proposed By-Laws.

Mrs Walshe questioned how the Council had transitioned from the proposed By-Laws in 2014 to the proposed By-Laws currently on public exhibition. Mrs Walshe referred to a *Notice of Amendment to Litchfield council Rural Dog Management By-Laws – April 2014* (on Council's website) which does not mention registration or restrictions on the number of dogs.

The Question was taken on Notice at the meeting.

Response

The previous work undertaken in developing new By-Laws did not meet the legal requirements of drafting By-Laws and was essentially abandoned.

The NT Government at the time recognised that this was a problem across the Territory and introduced the requirement for Parliamentary Counsel to draft all By-Laws. LGANT was provided with NTG funding to work with councils to draft instructions for Parliamentary Counsel.

It soon became apparent that this was not working due to the specialised skills required to draft instructions. The Department of Local Government stepped in and is now the Drafting Instructor and works direct with councils to draft instructions for Parliamentary Counsel.

While this was all happening Litchfield Council was in the middle of working direct with Parliamentary Counsel. Early in 2016 the Department of Local Government commenced actively assisting Council in working with Parliamentary Counsel.

Early material 2013 – 2014 was revisited including all public submission and the proposed By-Laws on exhibition is the result. It has been several years since the 2014 work and Litchfield has experienced continued population growth. With this population growth dog numbers and dog issues are increasing.

Council believes that the proposed By-Laws, currently out for public comment, best serve Litchfield residents and provides the necessary powers to regulate an increasingly challenging area.

Mrs Walshe expressed concern in relation to the costs associated with governing the new By-Laws, ie. establishing a pound and resourcing additional rangers like Darwin and Palmerston which is in contrary to Council quoting “no long-term cost to Council”.

Mrs Walshe believed the Council were moving away from the issue of tracking wild feral dogs.

Mrs Walshe questioned the number of dog complaints quoting 800 from Council and sought clarification as to what the complaints were about.

The Question was taken on Notice at the meeting.

Response - A response is provided in the minutes below:

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Dead Animal	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Dog At Large	276	361	352	244	252	398	54
Dog Attack Animal	66	68	91	100	73	81	13
Dog Attack person	7	18	17	14	13	9	2
Dog Menace Animal	9	7	12	8	10	14	1
Dog Menace Person	23	26	36	61	25	25	2
Dog Nuisance Barking	26	27	42	46	48	43	3
Feral	0	0	0	0	0	18	0
Lost Dog	69	128	197	233	239	189	22
Microchip	1	7	6	2	0	6	0
Nuisance	10	12	12	0	0	0	0
Other	9	4	20	30	34	19	1
Trap	3	42	24	23	27	30	2
Total	499	700	809	761	721	833	102

Mrs Walshe questioned Council why were they going to bring in a By-Law that they do not intend to introduce. Mary suggested that Council identify the areas of concern, ie. Coolalinga in the By-Laws and enforce restrictions on the number of these dogs.

Mrs Walshe asked Council where has the requirement for registration and the number of dogs come from.

Response

The Mayor thanked Mary for her comments and advised she would take the questions on notice. The Mayor advised that the Council remains focussed on the problems associated with wild and feral dogs.

The Mayor stated the information provided by Council is quite clear and in no way misleading. The Mayor added that the By-Laws have followed the full Parliamentary Counsel process.

Mrs Walshe concluded by stating that she disagreed with word "rural" being omitted recently in new Animal Management By-laws.

8.3 Mel Hammett – Proposed Amendments to the Animal Management By-laws

Mr Hammett spoke to the proposed Animal Management By-Laws currently on public exhibition. Mr Hammett stated that he was concerned that the proposed By-Laws was more appropriate for an urban or suburban setting not the rural area.

Mr Hammett also expressed his concern in relation to the cost of establishing a pound.

Response

Council is not planning any immediate works on its current pound located at the rear of the Council Office.

The proposed By-Laws uses the word "pound" instead of the term "holding kennel" used in Council's current By-Laws. However, there is no difference between a pound and a holding kennel. Pound is a more modern term. Both are intended to hold a dog, pending further action.

8.4 Marlene Watt – Proposed Amendments to the Animal Management By-laws

Mrs Watt referred to previous public meetings held by Council and tabled a Litchfield Council Business Paper from a Special Meeting held Thursday, 3 October 2013 quoting the outcomes in relation to the identification requirements. Mrs Watt spoke to the content of the Paper including the numbers recorded from six public meetings held in 2013.

Mrs Watt asked what has happened from Council's decision in October 2013 to now?

The Question was taken on Notice at the meeting.

Response

This question is like the question asked by Mrs Walshe. Please see response to Mrs Walshe pg3 above.

9. ACCEPTING DECLINING LATE ITEMS

9.1 – Late Report – 14.5 – Container Deposit Scheme Infrastructure Grant

Moved: Cr Hunt
Seconded: Cr Wright

THAT the late report item 14.5 – Container Deposit Scheme Infrastructure Grant be accepted and included in the officer's reports for consideration.

CARRIED-17/0044

10. NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil.

11. MAYORS REPORT

Moved: Cr Barden
Seconded: Cr Hunt

THAT Council note the Mayor's verbal report.

CARRIED-17/0045

12. REPORT FROM COUNCIL APPOINTED REPRESENTATIVES

Councillors appointed by Council to external committees provided an update, where relevant, in the previous item (verbal update on activities).

Moved: Cr Hunt
Seconded: Cr Barden

THAT Council note the Councillors' verbal report.

CARRIED-17/0046

13. FINANCE REPORT

13.1 Council Finance Report – February 2017

Moved: Cr Wright
Seconded: Cr Hunt

THAT Council receive the Council Finance report for the period ending 28 February 2017.

CARRIED-17/0047

14. OFFICERS REPORTS

14.1 Summary Report Planning and Mining – March 2017

Moved: Cr Hunt
Seconded: Cr Barden

THAT Council:

1. receive the March 2017 Summary Planning and Mining Report;
2. notes for information the responses provided to Development Assessment Services within Attachments A, B, C, and D to this report; and
3. notes for information the responses provided to the Department of Primary Industries and Resources within Attachment E to this report.

CARRIED-17/0048

14.2 Development Application for a hotel addition to an existing mixed use development at Section 6493 (425) Stuart Highway, Coolalinga, Hundred of Bagot

Moved: Cr Osborn
Seconded: Cr Wright

THAT Council endorse Attachment B, Council's Letter of Comment for PA2017/0058, a Development Application for a hotel addition to an existing mixed use development at Section 6493 (425) Stuart Highway, Coolalinga, Hundred of Bagot, the assessment of which is summarised above and reviewed in detail within the body of this report.

CARRIED-17/0049

14.3 Litchfield Council Community Grants Scheme

Moved: Cr Hunt
Seconded: Cr Wright

THAT Council:

1. approves the draft Litchfield Community Grants Scheme Guidelines;
2. endorses the updated FIN07 Grants, Donations and Sponsorship Policy;
3. approves the calling of applications for the 2016/17 Annual Community Grants with a total of \$22,500 to distribute;
4. establishes the Community Grants Committee to consider applications made to the 2016/17 Annual Community Grants program; and
5. appoints Crs Wright and Hunt to the Community Grants Committee together with the Director of Community and Corporate Services, or delegate.

CARRIED-17/0050

14.4 Queens Baton Relay

Moved: Cr Osborn
Seconded: Cr Barden

THAT Council:

1. endorses the Terms of Reference for the Queens Baton Relay Local Government Selection Panel;
2. establishes the Local Government Selection Panel and appoints the Mayor and Crs Barden and Osborn;
3. approves an allocation of \$30,000 in the 2017/28 Budget, to undertake road works on the airstrip to comply with safety requirements for the Queens Baton Relay;
4. approves an allocation of \$10,000 in the 2017/18 Budget for the Queens Baton Relay community celebration event to be held on 1 March 2018; and
5. Contact NT Tourism and Culture Minister for special grant funding to cover all costs of the Queens Baton Relay and explore opportunities for lasting community benefit.

CARRIED-17/0051

14.5 Container Deposit Scheme Infrastructure Grant

Moved: Cr Wright
Seconded: Cr Hunt

THAT Council affix the common seal on the 2016/2017 Container Deposit Scheme Infrastructure Grants between the Northern Territory Government and Litchfield Council.

CARRIED-17/0052

15. COMMON SEAL

Nil.

16. OTHER BUSINESS

Nil.

17. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

17.1 Mary Walshe – Various

Mrs Walshe referred to the Finance Report in comparison to the previous month report and sought clarification in regards to the correlation of the transactions one month to the payments to the credit cards the next month.

Response

The Finance Manager advised the following month the credit card payment will appear.

Mrs Walshe expressed concern in relation to Council spending \$30,000 on upgrading the Sattler Airstrip when it is not an asset of Council's. Mrs Walshe also questioned why the Relay couldn't travel along the highway like it would in other areas.

Response

The A/Director of Community & Corporate Services advised that Council sought advice from the NTG Department of Transport and was informed that the Stuart Highway could not close due to safety reasons.

Further, the Relay requires a sealed safe surface for runners. The A/Director added that Council would be seeking funding to cover the cost undertaken maintenance work on the airstrip.

Mrs Walshe asked if there was anywhere else in Australia was the relay running on Highway?

Response

The A/Director Community and Corporate Services advised that he could not answer that question and reinstated his advice from NTG Department of Transport.

Mrs Walshe referred to the credit card payments and queried the dinner with the Member for Nelson costing \$350. Mrs Walshe asked if alcohol was served at the dinner.

Response

The Mayor advised that the meeting was held after hours and given the time it was considered appropriate to provide some sustenance. Alcohol was served with dinner.

Further information

Eight people were catered for at the dinner meeting (Member for Nelson, four Elected Members and three Executive Team members), approximately \$43.75 per person, including drinks.

18. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Moved: Cr Wright

Seconded: Cr Hunt

THAT pursuant to Section 65 (2) of the Local Government Act and Regulation 8 of the Local Government (Administration) regulations the meeting be closed to the public to consider the following Confidential Item –

18.1 Portion 3123 Hundred of Bagot – Rates Recover

Regulation 8(b) Reason – information about the personal circumstance of a resident or ratepayer.

CARRIED-17/0053

The meeting was closed to the public at 6:59pm

Moved: Cr Hunt
Seconded: Cr Barden

THAT pursuant to Section 65 (2) of the Local Government Act and Regulation 8 of the Local Government (Administration) Regulations the meeting be re-opened to the public.

CARRIED-17/0055

The meeting moved to the Open Session at 7:11pm.

19. CLOSE OF MEETING

The Chair closed the meeting at 7:11pm.

20. NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, 19 April 2017.

MINUTES TO BE CONFIRMED

Wednesday 19 April 2017



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Mayor of Litchfield
Maree Bredhauer



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Chief Executive Officer
Kaylene Conrick

