

PAROO SHIRE COUNCIL



PRE-BUDGET MEETING MINUTES

28 May 2009

OPENING OF MEETING

The Mayor declared the meeting open at 9.20am

ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES

Councillors:

Mayor	Cr Joanna Sheppard
Deputy Mayor	Cr Karen Ticehurst
	Cr Don Dunsdon
	Cr Carmel Meurant

Officers:

Chief Executive Officer	Mark Watt
Director Governance	Neil Mitchell
Minutes Secretary	Rita McIntyre

APOLOGIES

[Res.M09/069](#)

Moved Cr Meurant seconded Cr Ticehurst that an apology be received from Cr Land.
CARRIED

REVIEW OF CORPORATE PLAN 2008-2012

Consideration was given to a review of the Corporate Plan 2008-2012. The Mayor asked Councillors to provide feedback and undertake a review of the seven key strategic priorities over the life of the Corporate Plan. The issues included in the review were as follows:

- Development and maintenance of community facilities
- Development and maintenance of road infrastructure
- Provision of consequential community services
- Provision of a high level of customer service to the community
- Provision of a high level of effective communication (internal and external)
- Undertake sound financial management practices
- Address the limited availability of residential and commercial land for development across the Shire

Council's overall review of the Corporate Plan 2008-2012 was favourable including the following outcomes:

1. Continue to rationalise Council housing stocks;
2. Councillors to attend Queensland Treasury Corporation (QTC) long-term financial training;
3. Recruitment processes have improved with merit based selection;
4. Appointment of Economic Development Manager;

Areas identified for improvement were as follows:

1. Customer Service is an area for improvement. Further training of staff and improved procedures were identified;
2. Need to identify residential and industrial land availability.

Other strategies completed during the year were consistent with the strategic aim of the Corporate Plan and it was agreed that generally speaking, Council is achieving the aims of the Plan.

Adjournment: The Meeting adjourned for morning tea at 10.02 returning at 10.34pm.

REVIEW OF OPERATIONAL PLAN 2008/09

In accordance with s.512 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Council conducted a review of the Operational Plan 2008/09.

Attendance: John McCormick entered the meeting at 10.50am.

Res.M09/070

Moved Cr Ticehurst seconded Cr Dunsdon that in accordance with s.512 of the Local Government Act 1993, Council adopt a satisfactory evaluation of the Operational Plan 2008/09.

CARRIED

BUDGET 2009/10

Roadworks Program

John McCormick, Shire Engineer outlined the general requirements for the preparation of a roadworks and engineering budget. John identified that the 2008/09 Budget included a bulk allocation for capital construction of \$998,000. Council had not made such allocations in the past and this was seen as a good initiative. Such funds could be used to re-construct the airport runway and conduct regular bitumen reseals.

Last years budget was framed with limited prior knowledge of current roadworks projects. Budget documentation from prior years was unclear, so there was no carried forward works. Current carried forward works are in the order of \$500,000 broken up as follows:

Description	Amount
Reseals	\$300,000
5km test section Cuttaburra Road (Whiterock)	\$200,000
Total	\$500,000

The above funds are derived from the Shire Road Construction allocation of \$998,000.

External funding available at this stage and still to be allocated in some instances is as follows:

Description	Amount
Mitchell Highway (Barrington-Cunnamulla)	\$1.2M
Roads to Recovery (RTR)	\$700,000
Truck Stop Wyandra	\$140,000
RMPC (Element Basis funding)	\$980,000
TIDS	\$189,000
Total	\$3,209,000

It was noted that the remaining flood damage funding was required to be spent by 30 June 2010, with Council works expected to be completed by March 2010.

Council's main priorities identified in the short-term were the reseal program of \$300,000 and the completion of the airport road, which can be funded from RTR.

Road Maintenance was discussed and John indicated that the Shire road maintenance allocation last year wasn't high enough to operate four maintenance graders. If Council sought a change to a system of grader, roller and water truck, approximately \$800,000 would be required.

Town Streets – John requested that \$200,000 be allocated for Cunnamulla town street re-construction, similar to the previous work funded through RTR. It was also agreed that \$30,000 to \$50,000 should be allocated to Eulo, Wyandra and Yowah for bitumen reseals.

Plant – John reported that Council's plant replacement program should consider the purchase of semi-tippers which can carry small plant up to 40m³.

Staff Resources – Council could consider the employment of apprentices and trainees. Immediately, an apprentice Boilermaker could start and in due course other positions may be considered when needs arise such as apprentice Plumber and Carpenter.

Attendance: John McCormick left the meeting at 12.10pm.

Rating and Council Cost Index

The Chief Executive Officer reported that the LGAQ Council Cost Index (CCI) has been calculated at 5.7%. Discussion followed.

CLOSURE OF MEETING

The Meeting closed at 12.37pm.

MINUTES CERTIFICATE

Confirmation

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Cr J Sheppard
Mayor

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Mark Watt
Chief Executive Officer