



ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

Tuesday, 21st March 2023

Noorama Racecourse, 6742 Jobs Gate Road, Noorama



49 Stockyard Street
Cunnamulla Qld 4490
www.paroo.qld.gov.au

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Ms Cassandra White
Chief Executive Officer
Tuesday, 21st March 2023

10 LATE REPORTS

10.1 Paroo Shire Council Waste Management – Business Case

Council Meeting: 21st March 2023
Department: Infrastructure
Author: Michael Saxby, Infrastructure Consultant

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with a Business Case on future waste management options for Paroo Shire Council for consideration and adoption.

Recommendation

That Council:

- 1. receive and note the report; and*
- 2. endorse the Paroo Shire Council Waste Management - Business Case provided as Attachment 1 to the report including the recommended option of undertaking a multi staged approach, as contained within the Business Case.*

Discussion

The issue of waste management and in particular, the Cunnamulla landfill, has been discussed and highlighted as a matter of public concern at Council meetings in recent years. This has primarily been driven by public dissatisfaction with the visual amenity of the facility.

To address the issues raised, in 2022 Council engaged Bellas and Reitano Consulting Engineers to prepare a high-level preliminary investigation of operations at the Cunnamulla landfill. That report was presented to Council at its meeting on 16th August 2022 (<https://www.paroo.qld.gov.au/downloads/file/802/2022-08-16-general-meeting-agenda-attachment>). It should be noted that the Bellas and Reitano report did not consider waste operations in Wyandra, Eulo or Yowah.

To identify and assess the range of options available to Council to ensure sustainability and appropriate operation of waste management throughout the Shire, a Business Case has been developed (refer to Attachment 1). The Business Case recommends proceeding with a multi-staged approach incorporating immediate action and further study/ reporting.

Attachments

Note – due to the size of the attachment, it has been provided separately to this agenda.

1. Paroo Shire Council Waste Management – Business Case

10.2 ALGA 2023 National General Assembly

Council Meeting: 21st March 2023
Department: Office of the Chief Executive Officer
Author: Cassandra White, Chief Executive Officer

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval for the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer to attend the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) 2023 National General Assembly (NGA) being held from 13 June 2023 – 16 June 2023 at the National Convention Centre, Canberra.

Recommendation

That Council:

- 1. receive and note the report; and*
- 2. approve the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer's attendance at the ALGA 2023 National General Assembly, being held in Canberra from 13 June – 16 June 2023.*

Discussion

The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) is the national voice of local government, representing 537 councils across the country. Convened annually, the National General Assembly (NGA) of Local Government is the peak annual event for Local Government, attracting in excess of 800 Mayors and Councillors each year. The NGA provides a unique opportunity for Local Government to engage directly with the Federal Government, to develop national policy, and to influence the future direction of our councils and our communities.

The 2023 NGA is being held from 13 – 16 June 2023 at the National Convention Centre, Canberra. The theme for the 2023 NGA is "Our Communities, Our Future". More information on the NGA can be found on ALGA's website - <https://alga.com.au/events/national-general-assembly-2023/>.

Council approval is being sought for the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer to attend the event.

Attachments

Nil.

10.3 Outback Car Rental Scheme

Council Meeting: 21st March 2023
Department: Office of the Mayor
Author: Suzette Beresford, Mayor

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with details of the Outback Car Rental Scheme as proposed by Wayne Clift of The Tourism Group. The scheme is tabled for Council's consideration.

Recommendation

That Council:

- 1. receive and note the report; and*
- 2. endorse the Operating and Implementation Model as provided at Attachment 1 to the report; and*
- 3. authorise the CEO to enter into an MOU with The Tourism Group approving Paroo Shire's participation in the Scheme; and*
- 4. approve the allocation of two Paroo Shire Toyota Prado's – Units 103 and 107 into the vehicle hire pool.*

Discussion

Council has been approached by The Tourism Group to participate in an Outback Car Rental Scheme. The Scheme is proposed as an informal partnership between initially, Bulloo, Balonne, Quilpie and Paroo Shire whereby each Council provides a number of vehicles for a car hire pool available at local airports and to be utilised by visitors to the region.

Attachments

1. Outback Car Rental Scheme – Operating and Implementation Model.

ATTACHMENT 1**Tourism Experience Development Fund 2022 – TED0081
Outback Car Rental Scheme
OPERATING AND IMPLEMENTATION MODEL**

This project will be an informal partnership between initially, four Local Government Associations (LGAs) – Bulloo, Balonne, Quilpie and Paroo. There will also be some involvement at possibly a lesser level with Murweh and Maranoa LGAs. These six Councils make up the SWQROC (South West Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils) and currently work collectively on a number of projects for the economic benefit of South West Queensland.

Murweh and Maranoa Councils may play a lesser role due to their airports currently having an established Car Rental service. They may however, still participate in a vehicle sharing program.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will be created between The Tourism Group (TTG) and each Council or possibly with SWQROC should that be the desired path for Councils. This MOU will set out the obligations, expectations and the operational responsibilities of each party.

There will also be a Partnership agreement between TTG and REX airlines to outline the expectations of both parties. This may include joint marketing, assistance with discounted flights to move car rental staff around the regional network and opportunities to co-share staffing costs at some of the airports.

Each Council will provide a number of cars which will be dependent on a number of factors, including delivery of new vehicles for Council allowing them to release others into the hire pool. The demand will determine the number of vehicles required, however there will be a minimum number of 10 cars initially for the first 3 months of operations growing to 20 thereafter. Growth will determine increase in fleet needs beyond that.

The details of both MOU and Partnership agreement are yet to be finalised however it will as an example cover items such as:

MOU with Councils -

- Vehicle supply – type and number
- Maintenance, storage and cleaning arrangements
- Agreement to work with other Councils to ensure maintenance requirements are met regardless of location or ownership of vehicle
- Agreed costs for Lease and what is included
- Agreed method of charging for servicing
- Agreed method of reporting to TTG on the condition, maintenance of vehicles in the pool.
- Two-year duration

**REX Partnership Agreement-**

- Agreed support via subsidised tickets
- Agreed value of joint marketing
- Reciprocal support for the program in selected regions

Rental Team

The overall operation of the program will be administered by TTG staff at our Brisbane office at Southbank. All bookings will come via the Outback Car Rental website and actioned as required.

In-Region Agents

Each airport or rental centre will have a contracted rental agent. They will collect the required number of vehicles needed for the arriving flight ensuring they are ready for the client. They would have previously ensured the vehicle is refuelled, cleaned and roadworthy.

They will work closely with the appointed Council manager responsible for the maintenance of the vehicles.

They will be responsible for getting the Rental Agreement (RA) correctly executed on arrival and carrying out the condition check on the vehicle upon return.

A Sub Contractor agreement will be established between TTG and the sub-contractor outlining responsibilities, KPIs and remuneration. Each contractor will need to have their own ABN and be legally registered to trade as a business.

Sub-contractors may be the same people who are currently contracted by REX airlines as ground handler for the airport.

It is envisaged the payment for the contractors will be initially on a “per rental” basis up to a maximum of 4 rentals per day then a flat rate per day. TTG will be travelling into the regions to appoint Rental Agents during Feb/Mar 2023.

Sub-Contractor Agreement

- Meeting clients off the flights
- Ensuring vehicles are ready for collection within 30 mins of flight landing
- Regular reporting to TTG on operational issues regarding rental customers or Council issues
- Returning vehicles to the Council depot
- Coordinating any breakdowns, vehicle recoveries and relocations

Breakdown and Recoveries

Each region has a number of breakdown services operating within its boundaries. We will appoint a recovery company in each town to assist as required with any retrievals or support services. The costs associated with this service is factored into the insurance premiums and excess paid by both the rental hirer and the operator (TTG).



Because of the nature and size of the communities it is possible that a number of activities could be provided by one operator. The in-region rental agent could well be the same person who owns the recovery business and could even be the airport ground handler as well.

Insurance and Compliance Requirements

Councils will maintain the insurance, registration and ownership of the vehicles for the duration of the consumption period. TTG will ensure compliance of vehicles via a reporting schedule as part of the MOU.

To ensure each party's risk is minimised the Insurance policy will be carefully considered. We have been speaking with an Insurance Company who specialises in Rental Car insurance. They are already the Insurance providers for a number of regional car rental companies, and we have provided them with details of the proposed operation including any restrictions on drivers or locations.

Together with this company we will work with the relevant Council policies to determine the best coverage. The Insurance cost is by far the biggest risk to the project however, at this stage we don't have the complete details to lock in a premium. This work will continue over the coming 2 months.

Booking Platform and Website.

TTG will develop a booking system to allow direct booking of vehicles and tour packages. This platform and booking system will have the functionality to allow date range selection for vehicles and to a lesser extent vehicle selection. The intention is not to replicate an 'AVIS' style vehicle choice; the Outback hire car experience will be in keeping with the destination - modern safe reliable purpose built 4WD vehicles, no convertibles or electric hybrids, no sports cars or people carriers. There will be caveats which advise customers that because of the remote location, vehicle choice is limited and their exact selection may not be available on arrival; however all vehicles will be the type needed to enjoy and experience Outback Queensland.

The booking system being considered is a well-known reputable company already working throughout the tourism industry and with added experience of car rental sites in other states.

The importance of security and privacy of renter's details is paramount in the considerations. The booking system and subsequent website will allow standalone vehicle rental as well as package tour itineraries and products.

The site will also provide back-end statistics and tracking software to ensure the known whereabouts of every vehicle and all times, further ensuring the safety and security of renters.

Marketing and Promotion.

With a modest beginning of only 10 vehicles in the fleet, this will allow us to match the marketing needs to the fleet availability in a measured way.



One of the major platforms for this project is the ability to provide short term travel packages for a market keen to see the Outback but time poor. Together with REX airlines we will establish opportunities for 'fly drive' short stays in the regions. Initially these packages will be basic car and accommodation package offered through the Outback Car Rental booking site. Once the client has booked the ground package a separate link will take them to REX airlines site to book and pay for air travel directly with REX.

This will necessitate working with those accommodation providers in the region who already have bookable product available through a channel manager which can be packaged with a car hire.

TTG is an ATAS (Australian Travel Accreditation Scheme) accredited travel agent and therefore our partnership with REX airlines where air is booked separate from ground content ensures an industry recognised method of creating the combine fly drive package.

REX airlines have a number of partnerships established with major retail travel networks and international wholesalers who will pick up this ground product once an airline ticket is added.

These packages are predominantly booked well in advance which suits our business model allowing prebooking of available vehicles and sourcing extra fleet from other centres if needed.

Other marketing opportunities will come via the regular Tourism Networks. OQTA (Outback Queensland Tourism Association) has already provided a letter of support outlining the need and opportunity for this service. Other Regional Tourism Organisations and traditional networks can be accessed to promote the product.

TTG's relationship with Visitor Information Centres and other LGAs across Queensland create a perfect opportunity to distribute details of the car hire service and indeed the packages to Outback Queensland regions.

10.4 2024 Local Government Election – Postal-only Ballot

Council Meeting: 21st March 2023
Department: Office of the Chief Executive Officer
Author: Cassandra White, Chief Executive Officer

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval for an application to the Minister for the Paroo Shire Council 2024 quadrennial local government election to be conducted by postal ballot.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. *receive and note the report; and*
2. *resolve to apply to the Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government & Planning for the Paroo Shire Council 2024 quadrennial local government election to be conducted as a postal-only ballot for the whole local government area.*

Discussion

Local government elections are held every four years, and on the same date for all 77 councils across Queensland. The next local government election will be held in March 2024.

Under section 45 of the *Local Government Electoral Act 2011*, a local government can apply to the Minister before 1 May in the year preceding the quadrennial election, for a poll to be conducted only by postal ballot. The guiding principles to assess and recommend postal-only ballots are:

- maximise the opportunity to exercise the right to vote by providing voter accessibility
- freedom from any undue influence when exercising their right to vote
- assistance and information for voters
- maximisation of the formal vote count.

Paroo Shire covers a large geographical area (47,633 km²) with a dispersed population. Considering the size of the region and to maximise the formal vote count, it is recommended that a postal only vote would be the most appropriate and cost-effective option for the Shire.

Attachments

1. Electoral Commission Queensland Postal-Only Ballot Local Election Fact Sheet.

ATTACHMENT 1

Fact Sheet



POSTAL-ONLY BALLOT LOCAL ELECTION

Applying for a postal-only ballot

A local government can apply before 1 May in the year preceding the quadrennial election to the Minister for Local Government (the Minister) for a poll to be conducted only by postal ballot for:

- all of the local government's area; or
- 1 or more divisions of its area; or
- a part of its area marked on a map.

Requests sent to Electoral Commissioner

The Minister must refer an application for a postal-only ballot to the Electoral Commissioner for an assessment and recommendation as to whether an application should be approved.

Criteria to make a recommendation

The Electoral Commissioner must have regard to these matters in section 45AB(4) of the *Local Government Electoral Act 2011* (LGEA) to make a recommendation:

- the reasons, stated in the application, why the poll should be by postal ballot
- identify costs of conducting the poll by postal ballot compared to the costs by conducting using polling booths
- the number of persons enrolled on an electoral roll for an electoral district, or part of an electoral district, included in the area to which the application relates.

- the population density and distribution in the area to which the application relates
- whether a poll has previously been conducted by postal ballot in the area to which the application relates.

ECQ's guiding principles to administer assessment to conduct postal-only ballots

The Electoral Commission of Queensland is responsible for the conduct and administration of free and democratic local government elections under the LGEA. The guiding principles to assess and recommend postal-only ballots are:

- maximise the opportunity to exercise the right to vote by providing voter accessibility
- freedom from any undue influence when exercising their right to vote
- assistance and information for voters
- maximisation of the formal vote count.

Deciding postal-only ballot applications

The Minister decides local government postal-only ballot applications. When deciding an application, the Minister must have regard for the Electoral Commissioner's recommendation and the criteria in section 45AB(4) of the LGEA.

More information

If you need more information refer to *Assess Local Government Applications to Conduct a Postal Ballot Election* or please contact ECQ on 1300 881 665 or by emailing eca@eca.qld.gov.au.

10.5 Correspondence – Paroo Progress Association – Cunnamulla All Aboard Theatre and Kiosk

Council Meeting: 21st March 2023
Organisation: Paroo Progress Association
Author: Karen Ticehurst, Chairperson

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with correspondence received from the Paroo Progress Association requesting Council to take over the day to day running of the Cunnamulla All Aboard Theatre and Kiosk.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. *receive and note the correspondence from Paroo Progress Association dated 13th March 2023; and*
2. *give consideration to the request for assistance.*

Discussion

Refer to Attachment 1 for details of the request and an outline of visitor numbers, income and expenditure.

Attachments

1. Correspondence dated 13th March 2023 from Karen Ticehurst.

ATTACHMENT 1**PAROO PROGRESS ASSOCIATION INC****79 EMMA ST****CUNNAMULLA QLD 4490**

13.3.23

To

CEO/ MAYOR/ COUNCILLORS

PAROO SHIRE COUNCIL

CUNNAMULLA QLD 4490

Dear Suzette and Cassie,

I am writing this letter in hope that the council might look favourably on undertaking the day to day running of the Cunnamulla All Aboard theatre and kiosk.

It has become more and more difficult to get volunteers to enable us to continue to offer an afternoon viewing, and it needs the stability of a paid worker if possible. We have tried to find someone ourselves, but the amount of time that the position requires does not make it feasible for anyone who would meet the necessary skill level to welcome theatre goers, sell kiosk items, and then tell a short story about the railway as a lead up to the show.

When we undertook the project, Margie Brown was the project manager, and she persuaded the committee that there would be plenty of work involved in delivering the show, but we always suspected that to make a break-even scenario it was going to be volunteers who would have to carry the weight.

I took on the project management when Margie resigned, and it was a massive task to complete the building within the budget we were allocated, whilst still running my business at Cunnamulla Cabins. On completion of the build, I had anticipated that volunteers would take it in turns nightly, spreading the load across eight to ten people, with perhaps only one night a week becoming the responsibility of any one person. However, this didn't happen, and I have possibly undertaking 95% of the volunteering myself. I have had some fantastic help from Tammy Hickey (who isn't a member of the PPA Inc) and Judy Stewart (member) and Helen Wilson (non-member). Paula Barrington (member) has also helped out whenever needed.

To keep the expenditure down, I have also been doing all the yard work as well, much to the detriment of my own gardens at times.

I have also found Queensland Rail increasingly difficult to work with, their level of governance is something that I have never before encountered, any approvals for improvements need to go through 65 people, I only say this as council has the means through economic development and tourism employees to be able to transition these long negotiations.

I guess I am tired, and I do not want to see it go backward, I have put too much effort into the project and customer service to see it dwindle to just a passable show that is only available for visitors two or three afternoons a week.

Visitor's love it, in fact we have 100% 5 star reviews on google and TripAdvisor, it is very special world-class show that makes a connection with everyone who sees it. I stuck to the rule of seven nights a week from get-go, as I believe that tourists don't want to be treated like second class citizens on the weekends, this is why I hope the volunteers will still help on the weekends to keep employee costs down for council. Judy and Helen are still keen to continue, I am still happy to do one afternoon a week when I am here, and I am sure Tammy will continue to help once she is well enough.

Our lease is currently being drawn up again for ten years, we have just completed the first five years of the original lease.

We have built an amazing asset for the town at a previously abandoned historical site, which we have renovated and landscaped. Over a million dollars have gone into the build and an overwhelming number of volunteer hours. Queensland Rail has already asked me if the Paroo Shire Council would be keen to take the station on permanently as the owners, but I felt at the time that Council probably didn't need anymore assets to look after. However, now, as the station and theatre is complete, it could offer more potential for a professionally run business to operate, and expand the opportunities available.

I will include our figures over the past two years for your perusal, this is with one show a day starting from March 15th through to October 15th.

I am stepping down as Chairperson at our next AGM, and I am not sure if anyone else will step up, so a memorandum of understanding with our committee may suffice for a short period of time where we share the workload but this will be dependent on the new Chairperson. The lease for the Railway Station is now due, and they are looking at a ten year lease. I have started the negotiations with them to get the ball rolling, as the old lease had expired (5 years). It would be an opportune time for the Paroo Council to perhaps take over the lease.

I do know one thing now, both from running Cunnamulla All Aboard and owning a business that caters to tourists, that the visitors of today are not just happy to walk around and look at shops and historical sites, they want to be entertained, and our aim as a destination is to make Cunnamulla a minimum two night stay. The Artesian Spas, will certainly increase this likelihood and the railway could play an important role in increasing average stays as well. There is so much more potential at the railway to increase the length of the experience but again it needs a paid employee to spend the necessary time to deliver it.

Hoping that we can come to an agreement to suit everyone, including future visitors to our town.

Thanking you

Karen Ticehurst

Chairperson

Paroo Progress Association Inc.

	2021	2022	Monthly Outgoings		Yearly outgoings	
MAR	Not open	72				
APRIL	Not open	150	IT	49	Brochures	1250
MAY	30	362	Telstra	100	Liquor Licence	780
JUNE	241	315	Acct BAS	115	Acct Financials	700
JULY	309	351	Ergon	135	Work Cover	200
AUGUST	276	440	Total	\$399	Outback Tourism	
			Kiosk		Membership	891
SEPT	510	347	Foods/Drinks			
OCT	146	102	(Different every month)		Insurance	3500
Total	1512	2139			Total	\$7,321
Avg at \$18 per head					Monthly plus Yearly outgoings	\$12,109
	\$27,216	\$38,502.00				

10.6 Correspondence – Charlotte Plains Station – Further request for Council Assistance with Maintenance of Access Roads

Council Meeting: 21st March 2023
Organisation: Charlotte Plains Station
Author: Robert Russell

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with correspondence received from Charlotte Plains Station requesting further discussions with Council on options for assistance with maintenance of the access roads to the property.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. *receive and note the correspondence from Charlotte Plains Station dated 1st March 2023; and*
2. *give consideration to the request for assistance.*

Discussion

Councillors will recall that correspondence was received from Charlotte Plains Station in early December 2022 requesting Council assistance with gravelling parts of the access roads to Charlotte Plains Station, including Creek Road, Charlotte Plains Road and Middle Road. Council considered the request at the Ordinary Meeting on 17th January 2023. A copy of the Council report and correspondence can be found on Council's website at this link - <https://www.paroo.qld.gov.au/downloads/file/852/2023-01-17-general-meeting-agenda>.

The resolution from that meeting is also copied below for Councillors information.

Council Resolution (RES.M23/7)

Moved: Cr Woodcroft
Seconded: Cr Clark

That Council:

1. *receive and note the correspondence from Charlotte Plains Station dated 5th December 2022; and*
2. *request Council's Director of Infrastructure to liaise with Charlotte Plains Station representatives on the type of road works required to assist in the resolution of the issue; and*
3. *request Council's Grants Officer to explore grant funding avenues to assist with funding the requested works.*

Carried unanimously.

Attachments

1. Correspondence dated 1st March 2023 from Robert Russell.

ATTACHMENT 1

From: Robert Russell
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2023 10:36 AM
To: [REDACTED] >
Cc: [REDACTED] >
Subject: FW: CP road map

Dear Cassie

Please see the requested quote (below) from Rupert Schmidt for the road works into Charlotte Plains camping area (Balbuna).

I appreciate Ali has already had a good discussion with you about this and that before anything else could be considered/discussed, you required this.

Can we please arrange a time asap to discuss this over a zoom call. 20/30mins. Tourist season is only a month away from starting so we require some pretty quick decisions. I think we all agree Charlotte Plains brings a lot of tourism to the area and helps put Cunnamulla on the map with some of the advertising campaigns that have run. There is a lot of mutual benefit to us all in getting this done and the repayment from both perspectives would be quick.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Regards Rob
[REDACTED]

Robert Russell
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2023 1:11 PM
To: Robert Russell [REDACTED] >
Subject: Re: CP road map

Hi Rob

I've had a look at your access track with Cameron this morning and also the gravel pit 3.7km away from your turnoff to the East. I got a rough estimate of the gravel pushed and stockpiled. It is approximately 1200 tonne sitting there (this is a rough calculation as the piles are some random shapes I reckon there could be a bit more there).

1200 Tonne divided by 50 tonne payload of one road train = 24 road trains worth of gravel sitting there ready to go.

My suggestion would be to give the total distance of the road 4.1km road from the bitumen to the bore bath a Heavy formation grade using one grader, one multi tyre roller and one semi water tanker. Also utilizing the quantity of gravel already stockpiled in the pit to focus on the major black soil and creek crossing areas.

Costs are as follows:

2 Days for road train to cart 25 loads of gravel = [REDACTED]

4 Days of grader, roller and water truck = [REDACTED]

2 Days dry hire of loader [REDACTED]

Mobilisation of Road train of tippers, 966 cat loader, cat grader, multi tyre roller, semi water tanker and job truck from current location south of Morven [REDACTED] each way.

Total estimate of cost [REDACTED]

The assumptions are that we would stay in the farm stay accommodation for the duration of the job and utilise the water, for the water truck, from the bore. Any pipe fluming and installation would be provided by yourselves utilising your excavator. We may be able to help out by put the piping in the side tipper as it was going through Cunnamulla if that is where it is.

If there is anything else I can help you with, just keep in touch.

Regards

Rupe