



CONFIRMED MINUTES

Ordinary Meeting held on 26 September 2023



**SHIRE OF CHRISTMAS ISLAND
MEETING MINUTES CERTIFICATION**

**Minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Shire of Christmas Island Council held at the
George Fam Chambers at 7.00pm on Tuesday 26 September 2023**

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CONFIRMED MINUTES

Ordinary Meeting of the Shire of Christmas Island held at the George Fam Chambers at 7.00pm on Tuesday 26 September 2023

1 DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

1.1 The Shire President declared the meeting open at 7.00pm.

2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE/DECLARATIONS OF FINANCIAL INTEREST

1.2 Record of Attendance

Shire President

Deputy President

Councillors

Cr Gordon **THOMSON**

Cr Kee Heng **FOO**

Cr Philip **WOO**

Cr Kelvin Kok Bin **LEE**

Cr Hafiz **MASLI**

Cr Morgan Boon Hwa **SOH**

Cr Azmi **YON**

Cr Vincent Cheng-Siew **SAW**

Chief Executive Officer

Director Planning, Governance & Policy/Minute Taker

Director Community/Recreation Services

Director Works, Services & Waste

David **PRICE**

Chris **SU**

Olivier **LINES**

Troy **DAVIS**

2.2 **Leave of Absence**

2.3 **Apologies**

2.4 **Declarations of Financial/Impartiality/Proximity Interest**

2.4.1 Cr Kelvin LEE inquired about the necessity of declaring a potential conflict of interest for item 10.1.2. The CEO clarified that there was no need for such a declaration, and Cr Kelvin LEE's query will be recorded in the meeting minutes.

3 RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE

4 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

4.1 Swee (Mel) TUNG of 2 Jalan Guru asked why weren't the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting minutes of August 22nd 2023 on the shire website? Swee (Mel) TUNG advised that she had checked in the weeks following the meeting and earlier that day for a copy of the minutes but came to a 'file-not-found' error when the relevant link was clicked.

Director for Planning, Governance and Policy advised that the minutes were sent to the administration officer to upload after the meeting, and was unaware that the minutes were not available online. Swee (Mel) TUNG asked what steps the council would take to put the August 22nd OCM minutes online and put in place a structure to ensure future minutes will be that they will be done so in a timely manner? CEO advised that the file will be uploaded first thing the

next morning, and that appropriate steps would be taken to ensure continued compliance in this matter.

- 4.2 Steven PEREIRA of 55-63 Gaze Road inquired about whether the group of Councillors who were recently off the island had been traveling for Council related purposes.

The Shire President Gordon THOMSON advised that the Councillors were off island on Council related travel to the 2023 Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) conference in Perth.

Steven PEREIRA asked about what the potential benefits the community might receive from this visit of the group of Councillors.

Shire President Gordon THOMSON provided that the annual WALGA conference in Perth received Councillors from all local governments across the state, including metro, regional and remote. They participate in workshops and training programs during the conference related to the local government sector. Keynote speakers present during the seminars providing participants the opportunity to hear from subject matter experts.

The WALGA conference also provides Councillors from across the state an opportunity to discuss developments in the sector around matters such as legislation changes. In addition, conference participants receive briefing presentations from WA Government agencies, in particular the Department of Local Government Sports and Cultural Industries (DLGSCI) on relevant items in their sections such as changes in regulatory requirements. DLGSCI takes this opportunity to consult local governments on developing policy initiatives as well.

Cr THOMSON advised that it was a standing practice of Council to participate in the WALGA conference alongside other remote local governments to keep informed of matters that will impact Christmas Island constituents.

Cr THOMSON advised that in addition to participation at the WALGA conference, Council also attends the annual Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) conference in Canberra. ALGA is a separate organisation which consists of local government representatives from each council in Australia. This conference in particular provides Council with the opportunity to access decision makers in Canberra within the Department as well as access elected members and the Minister for Territories. The ordinary advocacy role of local government members was expected.

The ALGA conference was also a similar opportunity for Councillors to participate in professional development with workshops, seminars and listening to speakers.

- 4.3 Stephanie LAI of 4 Jalan Ketam Merah asked if the local government had responsibility to provide public transport? She said that there was a shortage in hire cars on Christmas Island.

Shire President Gordon THOMSON responded that local government does not have the responsibility to provide public transport. Cr THOMSON advised that when the local government operated the CI Recreation Centre from 2005 to 2015, it operated a coaster bus service specifically to provide transport to the Recreation Centre.

Shire President Gordon THOMSON recounted the trial shuttle service was used a public transport service the council had several years ago during the school holiday period.

CEO David Price advised that records were kept of passenger numbers, and that only three students had utilised it to go from Drumstie to the Foreshore Padang once. SERCO staff on occasion used it to traverse the big hill. It was underutilised.

Stephanie LAI asked could funding be obtained from the Commonwealth to operate the service? Shire President Gordon THOMSON advised that the coaster bus was obtained through the Commonwealth after the Public Works Committee recommended that the Department of

Infrastructure put in place arrangements to assist residents in reaching the newly built CI Recreation Centre that was built relatively far away from residential areas.

Oliver LINES, Director of Community Services added that the coaster bus is used in arrangement with Christmas Island District High School for a range of transport needs from Friday Mosque runs, Recreation Centre runs, Foreshore Padang runs and in transportation needs for Seniors Week, Harmony Week, ANZAC day events and similar.

Shire President Gordon THOMSON advised that the service is maintained on request and that the data collected from the trial period showed that it would be underutilised; the service cannot be run empty at the cost to the rate payer.

- 4.4 Cr Azmi YON raised a query on behalf of a constituent in Flying Fish Cove – could the Shire request to the Commonwealth to keep the swing gate in the Kampong Padang locked in a closed position as it is a hazard.

Director of Works and Services Troy DAVIS advised that the Commonwealth had in the last week advised that it is locked and there were plans to have it removed entirely.

- 4.5 Cr Azmi YON asked on behalf of Taman Sweetland residents who complain that traffic moves too fast along Taman Sweetland Road leading out to Poon Saan Road. Can Council put in a traffic calming measure onsite coming out of the Taman Sweetland loop to assist in traffic calming?

Director of Works and Services Troy DAVIS will follow up and come back with advice.

- 4.6 Cr Hafiz MASLI asked on behalf of Flying Fish Cove residents on why the bins allocated in the area sometimes number two and sometimes number four?

Director of Works and Services Troy DAVIS advised he will need to consult with the relevant works supervisor and return with an answer.

5 APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

6 PETITIONS/DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

- 6.1 Darren WAN, History PhD student from Cornell University, Ithaca, New York via Singapore presented to the meeting.

Darren WAN thanked the council for the support he has received over the last two weeks in being able to access the Shire archives, library and time with personnel who has assisted him in his research. Darren WAN advised that his PhD is in the *History of Citizenship* in Malaya, Singapore and Christmas Island from the 1950s to 1980s, the time from the end of the colonial era to the modern day. He has gathered 20 interviews over the two weeks and will leave Christmas Island on Friday 29th September.

President Gordon THOMSON thanked Darren WAN for his work and wished the rest of his PhD studies well.

- 6.2 Stephanie NIU, Fulbright Scholar under the Fulbright Commission of the US Department of State's Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs presented to the meeting.

Stephanie NIU provided a powerpoint summary of her scholarship work to date from February to September. This included:

- 'Talking Maps', a project to collect community memories of the George Fam Building
- Development of www.livingmuseum.cx, public repository for her Christmas Island research
- Three articles for the Islander, 'Rubble Under the Surface: Hidden Forces Surrounding the 1988 Cyclone,' issue 793

'Wild Cherries Flying: New Maps Show South Point's Vibrant Life,' issue 792
'A Garden Party of Our Own: Peng, Mah and Han Families Return to the Island After Sixty Years,' issue 791

She provided a preview of the culmination of her work *'Dear Christmas Island: A Photo Exhibition of 1950s-1980s CI'* which will be part of the Shire of Christmas Island's Territory Week. She also advised that her works with CIDHS had been completed, which resulted in the production of *'Our Island, Our Future,'* a book of poetry produced by students around their perspective of life on Christmas Island. This book will be distributed for free at the Territory Week Cultural Opening Night, with students reading from the book at the festival.

Stephanie NIU advised that she will be presenting her Christmas Island research at the 8th Asian-Australian Identities Conference at the University of Adelaide on November 3rd; she will file a copy of the presentation and materials with the Shire's public library.

Stephanie NIU thanked the Shire for agreeing to be the host-organisation for the Fulbright Commission and its assistance in arranging access to archive material, providing office space to work from and agreeing to be the supporting host-organisation for the Fulbright Scholarship. She thanked Director for Planning, Governance and Policy Chris SU for his assistance over the year.

Shire President Gordon THOMSON thanked Stephanie NIU and Darren WAN for their contribution on behalf of Council. Cr THOMSON stated that it was important for serious thesis writers to access our archives to inform their work; the 1950s-1980s era have a lot of stories to tell with more history that needs to be written.

Cr THOMSON recounted that Shire had supported Michelle DIMASI in her PhD research around asylum seeker history and the practice of Council assisting visiting scholars and researchers in general. Recording the lived experiences of people on the island was important and needed to be done well.

Cr THOMSON wished Darren WAN and Stephanie NIU well in the remainder of their work. He said that Council looked forward to the completion of Darren WAN's and Stephanie NIU's works and would continue to assist when needed.

7 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS/BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

7.1 Minutes of Ordinary Council Meeting held on 22 August 2023

Members considered the unconfirmed minutes.

Council Resolution

Moved: Cr MASLI

Seconded: Cr YON

Res. No: 69/23

That Council adopt the unconfirmed minutes of the 22 August 2023 Council Meeting.

Carried: 8/0

For: Cr THOMSON, Cr FOO, Cr WOO, Cr LEE, Cr MASLI, Cr SAW, Cr SOH, Cr YON

Against: None

7.2 Business Arising from the Minutes of Previous Meetings

8 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY PRESIDING MEMBER WITHOUT DISCUSSION

8.1 Shire President Gordon THOMSON recognises the efforts of the Director of Community Services and Training in the upcoming Shire of Christmas Island Territory Week Festival. Noted that immediately following the Territory Day public holiday on 3rd October 2023, the early voting for the referendum for The Voice will commence on 4th, 5th and 6th October at the Council Chambers. The main polling day will be Saturday 7th October at the Poon Saan Community Hall.

Cr THOMSON stated that Shire had passed a resolution at Council to support the Yes campaign, and that everyone needed to play their part. A number of Councillors had returned to the island after the WALGA conference with Yes campaign corflutes, flyers, posters, badges and other material that will be distributed by the Shire in its organised Yes Campaign program. The Shire will have the feature central stall space at the Territory Week Cultural Opening Night on Friday 29th September for the launch of the Christmas Island Yes Campaign.

Shire President Gordon THOMSON stated that referendums have compulsory voting. Territory votes, such as the Christmas Island vote, count towards the national count. They do not count towards the majority of States requirement needed for the 'double-majority' required for a successful referendum.

Cr THOMSON advised that the Australian Electoral Commission is conducting the polling day for the referendum on Christmas Island on the 7th October as it lacks the logistics support to be able to hold it on 14th October alongside the rest of Australia. Shire has been asked to disseminate the polling information which it did so in three languages in issue 794 of the Islander, 22 September 2023.

Christmas Islanders must vote in early polling on 4,5,6 October or on the polling day on 7 October; after these dates the AEC is not able to support voting on Christmas Island even though the national polling day on the mainland is on October 14th.

Cr FOO Kee Heng advised he had been sent spam mail regarding being able to cast a ballot seemingly via email. Cr THOMSON advised that there is a great deal of online spam around the referendum and that email voting is not permitted. The Shire will make the necessary reporting to the AEC.

9 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

9.1 Community Consultative Committee

Council Resolution

Moved: Cr MASLI

Seconded: Cr LEE

Res. No: 70/23

That Council receive the confirmed minutes of the

- Confirmed Minutes of the April 27th 2023 CCC Meeting
- Confirmed Minutes of the June 7th 2023 CCC Meeting
- Confirmed Minutes of the July 5th 2023 CCC Meeting
- Confirmed Minutes of the August 2nd CCC Meeting
- Unconfirmed Minutes of the September 6th 2023 CCC Meeting

Carried: 8/0

For: Cr THOMSON, Cr FOO, Cr WOO, Cr LEE, Cr MASLI, Cr SAW, Cr SOH, Cr YON

Against: None

Council Resolution		
Moved: Cr YON	Seconded: Cr SOH	Res. No: 71/23
That Council receive the confirmed minutes of the:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Confirmed Minutes of the April 12th FMC Meeting- Confirmed Minutes of the July 6th FMC Meeting- Confirmed Minutes of the July 26th FMC Meeting		
Carried: 8/0		
For: Cr THOMSON, Cr FOO, Cr WOO, Cr LEE, Cr MASLI, Cr SAW, Cr SOH, Cr YON		
Against: None		

10 REPORTS OF OFFICERS

10.1 Chief Executive Officer

10.1.1 Revised Organisational Chart 2023

Council Resolution		
Moved: Cr YON	Seconded: Cr SAW	Res. No: 72/23
Council endorses the new 2023 Organisational Chart.		
Carried: 8/0		
For: Cr THOMSON, Cr FOO, Cr WOO, Cr LEE, Cr MASLI, Cr SAW, Cr SOH, Cr YON		
Against: None		

10.1.2 Proposed Shire of Christmas Island – UCIW Enterprise Agreement 2023-2027

Council Resolution		
Moved: Cr YON	Seconded: Cr SAW	Res. No: 73/23
That:		
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The proposed Shire of Christmas Island – Union of Christmas Island Workers Enterprise Agreement 2023-2027 as tabled is noted.2. Council adopts the proposed Shire of Christmas Island – Union of Christmas Island Workers Enterprise Agreement 2023-2027 and,3. Council authorise the Chief Executive Officer to ensure the Pre-Approval steps are carried out, and to sign and lodge the Shire of Christmas Island – Union of Christmas Island Workers Enterprise Agreement 2023-2027 with Fair Work Australia once those Pre-Approval steps have been completed and the employees have voted to endorse the agreement.		
Carried: 8/0		
For: Cr THOMSON, Cr FOO, Cr WOO, Cr LEE, Cr MASLI, Cr SAW, Cr SOH, Cr YON		
Against: None		

10.2 Director Finance & Administration

10.2.1 Schedule of Accounts - August 2023

Council Resolution

Moved: Cr FOO **Seconded: Cr LEE** **Res. No: 74/23**

That Council approves the expenditure as presented in August 2023 Schedule of Accounts

Carried: 8/0

For: Cr THOMSON, Cr FOO, Cr WOO, Cr LEE, Cr MASLI, Cr SAW, Cr SOH, Cr YON

Against: None

10.2.2 Financial Statements - August 2023

Council Resolution

Moved: Cr YON **Seconded: Cr SOH** **Res. No: 75/23**

That Council receives the Financial Statements of August 2023 for the Municipal Fund.

Carried: 8/0

For: Cr THOMSON, Cr FOO, Cr WOO, Cr LEE, Cr MASLI, Cr SAW, Cr SOH, Cr YON

Against: None

10.3 Director Community/Recreation Services & Training

10.4 Director Works, Services & Waste

10.4.1 RFQ 10-23 Lily Beach Toilet Upgrade

Council Resolution

Moved: Cr YON **Seconded: Cr MASLI** **Res. No: 76/23**

That Council accepts the quotation from Ecoflow Wastewater Management Pty Ltd for the amount of \$68,637.79 for RFQ Lily Beach Toilet Upgrade

Carried: 8/0

For: Cr THOMSON, Cr FOO, Cr WOO, Cr LEE, Cr MASLI, Cr SAW, Cr SOH, Cr YON

Against: None

10.4.2 Supply and Delivery of Various Items of Plant

Council Resolution

Moved: Cr YON **Seconded: Cr SAW** **Res. No: 77/23**

That Council:

1. Accepts the offer RFT 02-2023 Supply and Delivery of the 2 x 3 tonne Hino Trucks from Hino Motor Sales Australia for \$160,587.19;
2. Accepts the offer for RFQ 11-23 Supply and Delivery of Multi-tyred Roller from BT Equipment for \$189,500; and
3. Recognises no tenders were received by the due date and time for RFT 01-2023 Supply and Delivery of 7 x Toyota Dual Can Utes, and that a revised Tender will be called reported back to Council in October.

Carried: 8/0

For: Cr THOMSON, Cr FOO, Cr WOO, Cr LEE, Cr MASLI, Cr SAW, Cr SOH, Cr YON

Against: None

10.5 Director Planning, Governance & Policy

10.5.1 Regulation 17 Review

Council Resolution

Moved: Cr MASLI

Seconded: Cr LEE

Res. No: 78/23

That Council adopts the reviewed Regulation 17 documents to satisfy the compliance requirements for Regulation 17 of the WA Local Government (Audit) Regulations and accept the Regulations 17 Report for the period.

- Summary of Regulation 17 Review
- Legislative Compliance Management Framework 2023
- Internal Controls Framework 2023
- Risk Management Plan 2023

Carried: 8/0

For: Cr THOMSON, Cr FOO, Cr WOO, Cr LEE, Cr MASLI, Cr SAW, Cr SOH, Cr YON

Against: None

7.50pm Cr YON left the meeting

7.51pm Cr YON returned to the meeting

10.5.2 Christmas Island-Singapore Strategy Review

Council Resolution

Moved: Cr LEE

Seconded: Cr SOH

Res. No: 79/23

That the Council adopts the 2023 Christmas Island – Singapore Strategy.

Carried: 8/0

For: Cr THOMSON, Cr FOO, Cr WOO, Cr LEE, Cr MASLI, Cr SAW, Cr SOH, Cr YON

Against: None

11 ELECTED MEMBERS MOTIONS OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

12 NEW BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE INTRODUCED BY DECISION OF THE MEETING

13 BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

Council Resolution

Moved: Cr YON

Seconded: Cr SAW

Res. No: 80/23

The meeting be closed to members of the public in accordance with section 5.23(2) of the Local Government Act 1995 for council to discuss matter of a confidential nature.

Carried: 8/0

For: Cr THOMSON, Cr FOO, Cr WOO, Cr LEE, Cr MASLI, Cr SAW, Cr SOH, Cr YON

Against: None

13.1 2023 CEO Performance Review

Council Resolution

Moved: Cr YON

Seconded: Cr MASLI

Res. No: 81/23

1. Council receives and endorses the 2022-2023 Performance appraisal assessment report 13.1.1
2. As of 27 September 2023 the Local Government will pay the CEO the full amount of the District Allowance determined by the Western Australian Salaries and Allowance Tribunal in its determination every year.
3. Council approves the renewal of the CEO's contract of employment set out in attachment 13.1.2

Carried 8/0

For: Cr THOMSON, Cr FOO, Cr WOO, Cr LEE, Cr MASLI, Cr SAW, Cr SOH, Cr YON

Against: None

Absolute Majority

Council Resolution

Moved: Cr YON

Seconded: Cr FOO

Res. No: 82/23

The meeting be reopened to members of the public.

Carried: 8/0

For: Cr THOMSON, Cr FOO, Cr WOO, Cr LEE, Cr MASLI, Cr SAW, Cr SOH, Cr YON

Against: None

14 CLOSURE OF MEETING

The Shire President closed the meeting at 8.35 pm

15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 24 October 2023