



SPECIAL ELECTORS' MEETING

AGENDA

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a
Special Electors' Meeting of Council will be held
in the Council Chambers, Welcome Road, Karratha,
on Saturday, 10 May 2014 at 7:30pm
to consider the following items:**

- A Census
- A Referendum
- Rates

**CHRIS ADAMS
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**



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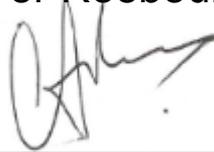
Any person or legal entity who acts or fails to act in reliance upon any statement, act or omission made in a Council or Committee Meeting does so at that persons or legal entity's own risk.

In particular and without derogating in any way from the broad disclaimer above, in any discussion regarding any planning application or application for a license, any statement or intimation of approval made by any member or Officer of the Shire of Roebourne during the course of any meeting is not intended to be and is not taken as notice of approval from the Shire of Roebourne.

The Shire of Roebourne warns that anyone who has any application lodged with the Shire of Roebourne must obtain and should only rely on

WRITTEN CONFIRMATION

of the outcome of the application, and any conditions attaching to the decision made by the Shire of Roebourne in respect of the application.

Signed: 
Chris Adams - Chief Executive Officer

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS (NOTES FOR YOUR GUIDANCE) (updated 13 March 2000)

A member who has a **Financial Interest** in any matter to be discussed at a Council or Committee Meeting, which will be attended by the member, must disclose the nature of the interest:

- (a) In a written notice given to the Chief Executive Officer before the Meeting or;
- (b) At the Meeting, immediately before the matter is discussed.

A member, who makes a disclosure in respect to an interest, must not:

- (c) Preside at the part of the Meeting, relating to the matter or;
- (d) Participate in, or be present during any discussion or decision-making procedure relative to the matter, unless to the extent that the disclosing member is allowed to do so under Section 5.68 or Section 5.69 of the Local Government Act 1995.

NOTES ON FINANCIAL INTEREST (FOR YOUR GUIDANCE)

The following notes are a basic guide for Councillors when they are considering whether they have a **Financial Interest** in a matter. I intend to include these notes in each agenda for the time being so that Councillors may refresh their memory.

1. A Financial Interest requiring disclosure occurs when a Council decision might advantageously or detrimentally affect the Councillor or a person closely associated with the Councillor and is capable of being measure in money terms. There are exceptions in the Local Government Act 1995 but they should not be relied on without advice, unless the situation is very clear.
2. If a Councillor is a member of an Association (which is a Body Corporate) with not less than 10 members i.e. sporting, social, religious etc), and the Councillor is not a holder of office of profit or a guarantor, and has not leased land to or from the club, i.e., if the Councillor is an ordinary member of the Association, the Councillor has a common and not a financial interest in any matter to that Association.
3. If an interest is shared in common with a significant number of electors or ratepayers, then the obligation to disclose that interest does not arise. Each case needs to be considered.
4. If in doubt declare.
5. As stated in (b) above, if written notice disclosing the interest has not been given to the Chief Executive Officer before the meeting, then it **MUST** be given when the matter arises in the Agenda, and immediately before the matter is discussed.
6. Ordinarily the disclosing Councillor must leave the meeting room before discussion commences. The **only** exceptions are:
 - 6.1 Where the Councillor discloses the **extent** of the interest, and Council carries a motion under s.5.68(1)(b)(ii) or the Local Government Act; or
 - 6.2 Where the Minister allows the Councillor to participate under s.5.69(3) of the Local Government Act, with or without conditions.

INTERESTS AFFECTING IMPARTIALITY

DEFINITION: *An interest that would give rise to a reasonable belief that the impartiality of the person having the interest would be adversely affected, but does not include an interest as referred to in Section 5.60 of the 'Act'.*

A member who has an **Interest Affecting Impartiality** in any matter to be discussed at a Council or Committee Meeting, which will be attended by the member, must disclose the nature of the interest;

- (a) in a written notice given to the Chief Executive Officer before the Meeting; or
- (b) at the Meeting, immediately before the matter is discussed.

IMPACT OF AN IMPARTIALITY CLOSURE

There are very different outcomes resulting from disclosing an interest affecting impartiality compared to that of a financial interest. With the declaration of a financial interest, an elected member leaves the room and does not vote.

With the declaration of this new type of interest, the elected member stays in the room, participates in the debate and votes. In effect then, following disclosure of an interest affecting impartiality, the member's involvement in the Meeting continues as if no interest existed.

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AGENDA

1 OFFICIAL OPENING

Cr Long acknowledges the traditions of the Ngarluma people, on whose land we are gathered here today.

2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCES / APOLOGIES

Councillors:

- Cr Peter Long [President]
- Cr John Lally [Deputy President]
- Cr Garry Bailey
- Cr Geoff Harris
- Cr Harry Hipworth
- Cr Nerida Kickett
- Cr Janine Miller
- Cr Michael Saylor
- Cr Evette Smeathers
- Cr Robin Vandenberg
- Cr Fiona White-Hartig

Staff:

Chris Adams	Chief Executive Officer
Josie Lanza	Minute Secretary

Apologies:

Electors:

Members of Public:

Members of Media:

3 MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

For consideration as follows:

3.1 CENSUS

The petitioners request that the following be discussed and voted on by the electors present:

The State Statistician is requested by the Shire of Roebourne to conduct a census of the inhabitants of the Shire of Roebourne to determine whether or not the Shire of Roebourne has more than 20,000 inhabitants required to qualify it for being a designated City.

OFFICERS COMMENT:

The Census is a national exercise conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics every 5 years in accordance with the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*. The Census ought to involve all of Australia as citizens who would ordinarily reside in the Shire may on Census night be absent from the region and travelling interstate or overseas. The last Australian Census cost the Commonwealth Government around \$300M.

If Council were to consider this option it is unlikely to be supported by the Commonwealth Statistician simply for a localised issue. It is difficult to justify this option given that the Council was provided advice by the State Statistician on 9 October 2012 confirming an estimated resident population figure for the Shire of 23,927 persons.

3.2 REFERENDUM

The petitioners request that the following be discussed and voted on by the electors present:

If the result of the census shows that the Shire of Roebourne does, in fact and at this time, have 20,000 inhabitants a referendum is to be called by the Shire to determine whether the inhabitants do or do not want the name of the Shire of Roebourne changed to the City of Karratha.

OFFICERS COMMENT:

Council has undertaken two consultation processes in 2013, one by random phone poll of 4,500 residents that received a very low take-up rate. Of the 289 residents polled, 70% supported the Shire becoming a city and 81% of those polled supported the "City of Karratha" and 16% supported the "City of Roebourne".

The second consultation process was more extensive with a mail out to 3,000 ratepayers and 6,000 households with targeted consultation to indigenous groups, community associations and business groups. Responses were received from 200 residents and 15 organisations. 90% of respondents favoured a name change and 53% supported the "City of Karratha" and 10% supported 'City of Roebourne'.

A referendum could be undertaken amongst electors and will cost in the vicinity of \$30,000. This is not an expense that has been budgeted for 2014/15 as there is no scheduled local government election until 2015/16.

3.3 RATES

The petitioners request that the following be discussed and voted on by the electors present:

In view of the on-going lack of contracts and jobs resulting in a considerable loss of population and, as a consequence, drastic reductions in the value of properties in the Shire, will the Shire request the Valuer General to reassess the value of properties so that the Shire rates will reflect the true present valuations.”

OFFICERS COMMENT:

Council has allocated funds in the draft budget for 2014/15 to undertake a general revaluation of all GRV properties in the Shire that will provide the basis for rating for the 2015/16 financial year. The program of works have been locked in by Landgate (formerly the Valuer General's Office) for the forthcoming years.

In order to maintain a set level of rating revenue for the Council, when property valuations have increased, the rate in the dollar has decreased. Alternatively a decrease in property valuations will lead to a corresponding increase in the rate in the dollar in order to ensure that Council's rate income meets community demand for infrastructure and services. It is also worth noting that this Council has undertaken more than most local governments to ensure that the resource sector contributes a fair share in order to ease the burden on other ratepayers.

4 CLOSURE & DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The meeting closed at _____.

The date of the next meeting Ordinary Council Meeting is to be held on Monday 19 May 2014 at 6:30pm at Council Chambers - Welcome Road, Karratha.