

Shire of Kojonup Briefing Session – 7 February 2017

Record of Meeting (9:00am – 4:30pm)

Attendance: Shire President and Councillors: Sexton, Radford, Pedler, Mathwin, Pritchard, Warland & Hobbs.

Officers: CEO, CDO (9:30am – 10:30am), MRS & TP (10:45am – 11:30am), MCS (11:35am – 12:30am), MCDT (1:00pm – 3:33pm), RO

Guests: Sgt Phil Cartlidge – Kojonup Police (9:00am – 9:40am)
James Hope & Rhyce Mason – Great Southern Grains (10:45am – 11:15am)

Apologies: Nil

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil

CONCEPT/AGENDA FORUM

Time Slot	Item	Response / Action
9:00am – 9:40am	Sgt Phil Cartlidge to provide a general update to Council	<p>The Shire President welcomed Sgt. Phil to the briefing. The Sgt. advised that there had been a major spike in burglaries over the last 3 months with offenders travelling from neighbouring shires and vice versa.</p> <p>Additional police resources from Albany and Narrogin had allowed a series of 'raids' to be executed resulting in 12 grams of ice, 72 grams of cannabis, 130 items of stolen property, plus guns and ammunition to be seized. 21 charges have been laid adding to the 22 charges made during December and January, however there are still a number of offences that have not led to persons being charged but investigations are ongoing.</p> <p>Offenders know that Kojonup Police are under resourced with only 4 officers and 'spotters' can quickly inform offenders of police movements. The District Superintendent acknowledges that Kojonup requires at least 1 additional officer (preferably 2) however is constrained due to budget measures. Six people have breached</p>

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		<p>curfew or reporting requirements and it continues to frustrate police that offenders once charged are released on bail until sentencing and reoffending in order to feed their addiction.</p> <p>Councillors acknowledged the efforts of the Sgt. and his team and have written to the Minister of Police, Hon Lisa Harvey. Hopefully the Law & Order Forum at the Sports Complex on 14 February 2017 will be well attended by the community as it provides members the opportunity to present their concerns and frustrations face to face with the Minister.</p>
9.40am – 10:35am	Council to visit Kojonup Community Resource Centre (CRC)	<p>Council and staff visited the CRC and met with Frankie Trouchet, Lyn Boys and Neil McRae to familiarise themselves with the CRC.</p> <p>The CEO's report to be tabled at 21 February 2017 Council Meeting.</p>
10:50am – 11:55am	Great Southern Grains – to discuss compliance aspects regarding seed cleaning operation with Council	<p>Rhys Mason and James Hope were welcomed to the Briefing by the Shire President. The CEO impressed on Rhys and James that non-compliance with Planning conditions would not be tolerated by Council and that severe repercussions including withdrawal of the Permit and Lease could occur. Department of Environment non-compliance could effectively result in the business ceasing operations and severe financial repercussions.</p> <p>The Planning Permit related to various commitments that the operators of the seed cleaning pledged to undertake when seeking approvals regarding dust mitigation, noise, truck delivery hours, covering waste, etc.</p> <p>Community concerns were justified and the lack of compliance was more than disappointing. James and Rhys expressed remorse that there were elements of their operations that caused concern which were not initially envisaged and now had to prove to Council and the community that future compliance would be achieved as the consequences of non-compliance are very real.</p> <p>The MRS concurred with comments by the CEO that the main compliance issues relating to the grain cleaning operation were noise from trucks and dust caused by trucks accessing the site to unload</p>

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		<p>grain as well as dust arising from the auger and stockpile of grain "seconds".</p> <p>The MRS had carried out numerous site visits to gather information relating to dust and noise emissions emanating from the site and while the operators agreed to limit truck movements on the site to no later than 7:00pm (down from 10:00pm) to reduce annoyance to neighbours, little or nothing had been done since commencement of the grain cleaning operations to control dust emissions required as a condition of Development Approval for the grain cleaning business.</p> <p>Evidence of dust emissions from the site was also captured on camera by one of the complainants, a copy of which was forwarded to Council staff as evidence and for record purposes.</p>
11:30am – 12:30am	<p>The Manager Corporate Services to update Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On changes to Vehicle licensing costs, stamp duty and how this will affect Council; and • Provide timetable and approach regarding 2017 integrated planning reviews, workshops, etc. such as Community Strategic Plan 	<p>The MCS advised that local government exemptions have been removed which will cost the Shire \$40,000 additional in annual licensing fees and \$40,000 per annum in stamp duty on new vehicle purchases.</p> <p>See Attachment One.</p>
1:00pm – 1:40pm	<p>The Chief Executive Officer and Manager Community Development & Tourism to provide an update to Council on the Black Cockatoo Café</p>	<p>The MCDT provided a comprehensive overview of staffing, training, menu, plant & equipment, policy, procedures, IT, OSH, Security, stock, wastage and pricing aspects relating to the Café which was welcomed by Council.</p>

COUNCILLOR Q & A

1:40pm – 2:30pm	<p>Councillor Updates</p> <p><i>Opportunity for Councillors to outline meetings attended, discussions had or queries received for Councillor and Officer information.</i></p>	<p>Shire President:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spoke to the meeting regarding her meeting with Minister Joe Francis (Emergency Services) regarding Rural Fire Commission or similar which was also attended by Cr Sexton. A joint report was tabled for Council information (see Attachment Two) and the CEO will include in Kojonup News despite Premier
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		<p>announcing Collie being chosen as the new Commission headquarters if re-elected.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Federal Petroleum Resource Tax – Senator Barry O’Sullivan QLD – espousing that RfR should be a National Fund not just WA as the benefits achieved have been enormous.• Myrtle Benn – NRM Officer has sourced funding for signage, etc. and it is important that signs compliment new shire branding as part of style guide. <p>Cr Warland:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bowler Place – Kitchen upgrades progressing very nicely.• Abandoned vehicles – CEO reported that Council was dealing with one case in George Street and Honner Street would be monitored. <p>Cr Radford:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dump Point sign at Benn Parade opposite ramp near station obscured and needs to be moved plus size increased. The CEO to progress with MWS and MCDT.• Tourist Railway to ‘Walk thru’ Helen Munt’s Heritage Report prior to being presented to Council next month. <p>Cr Hobbs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regional Road Group – next meeting to be held in May and Sub Group needs to meet as recommended in report to Council by Kojonup Delegates. CEO to progress with MWS.• Improve signage at Kodja Place Car Park as Caravans and RVs tend to park North/South and take up 4 or more car parking spaces. CEO to progress with MWS and MCDT. <p>Cr Pritchard:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Re-affirmed points covered at meeting between CEO and John and Kath Mathwin regarding Kodja Place financials.• Attended Historical Society meeting and correspondence to be forwarded to CEO regarding Potters’ Land.• Rubbish Bin at Benn Parade was damaged by a vehicle and removed but not replaced. Ensure bins have crow proof lids!
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		<p>Cr Mathwin:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vicki Davies – CEO and Shire President advised that matter had been adequately addressed by Works & Services. <p>Cr Pedler:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advised that the MCDT had provided an extensive reply to his question regarding café patrons. • Hillman Park – CEO advised that he had spoken with the Supervisor/Horticulture Tradesperson regarding concept plan that Leith Schmidt presented to Council re opening up frontage as there is a tendency for motorists to think the park is privately owned. • Planning Scheme – Commercial Zones need to be mixed use zone to allow housing as an ancillary use. Matter previously raised with Planner who was going to amend same in next Scheme Update.
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10:30am Morning Tea Provided

12:30pm Lunch Provided

Info Bulletin	Circulated	<p>Councillors to review and ask questions out of session or at the next briefing session.</p> <p>A copy of any question, and the response will be circulated to all Councillors for information.</p>
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Rick Mitchell-Collins
Chief Executive Officer



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Attachment One



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ADVERTISEMENT

State Govt Grinch after Christmas for communities



**COUNCILLOR
LYNNE CRAIGIE
PRESIDENT
WALGA**

Councils and their communities will once again bear the brunt of attempts to address spiralling State debt, this time through cuts to vehicle registration concessions.

The impact will vary between Councils, but it is estimated next year it will cost the sector millions more to register the vehicles used in servicing the community.

I don't see a public servant somewhere being congratulated for the savings, but it will be the community that will ultimately bear those costs.

To address this cost shift imposed by the State, Councils will either have to reduce what they provide for the community or increase their income from rates.

Ironically, when Council rates increases are announced each year, the State Government invariably tries to duck itself to the community by joining in the chorus of condemnation. And yet the State themselves are unable to maintain inflation-only rises to utility rates.

In a further twist, the Department of Transport in advising Councils of the change claims the extra revenue will be spent on road and infrastructure projects.

The contradiction however, is that about 80 per cent of WA roads and associated maintenance falls to Councils, to which the State Government has reduced the proportionate funding share.

The State Government's retreat from supporting licensing changes is the latest in a string of measures to shift costs to Councils rather

than make any actual decisions on real savings.

For example late last year the Department of Local Government and Communities decided to walk away from supporting families in need and cut \$1.4m to support community family centres.

Before that State Treasury decided to move to a "cost recovery model" which lured up the rates Councils had to pay, predominantly to provide community infrastructure.

Some of the State's cost shifting initiatives have a bigger financial impact on Local Government than others, but they all add up.

At a time when the economy has stalled and unemployment in WA is at its highest since 2002 and the worst in the nation, the community has less ability to absorb additional charges.

The impact of the latest cost shift - the need for Councils to pay the State more to license vehicles - won't be implemented until the new financial year, well after the State election in March.

That is the community won't feel the financial impact of the decision until well after it has decided who should form Government.

Everyone accepts that the State is in a dire financial situation and that cost shifting by State Government to Councils is nothing new.

But it would be refreshing to have a State Government that had an economic recovery plan that actually addressed overspending in agencies and made genuine decisions on savings.

Rather than simply trying to make the State Government seem increasingly efficient by constantly shifting costs to Councils and ultimately to their communities.



The West Australian
17 January 2017
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NEWS

Concession cut to cost ratepayers

EXCLUSIVE

by Angela Pownall

A State Government cash grab over vehicle licensing concessions could push WA council rates up 2.5 per cent this year, the local government sector's lobby group has warned.

Local government authorities, the Australian Defence Force and Federal Government agencies have long enjoyed a 100 per cent reduction in licensing costs for its vehicles.

The WA Government has decided to scrap the concession to claw back \$5.9 million over the next financial year alone, though State Government vehicles will keep the benefit.

Lynne Craigie, president of the WA Local Government Association, condemned the decision, which she said was announced over Christmas to come into effect on July 1.

"It's one of those things we get a discount on in local government which enables us to provide more services," she said.

"If money has to be used to pay registration in the budget, councils will either have to put up rates or cut back services."

Ms Craigie said for a small council, an extra cost of \$16,000 was equivalent to about a one per cent rate increase, while for a bigger council a \$50,000 cost would translate to about a 2.5 per cent rate increase.

Rob Paull, chief executive of the Shire of Corrigin which has a population of 1100, said the end of the registration concession would cost \$54,000 a year for its 70-strong fleet, equating to more than a 2 per cent increase in rates.

Transport Minister Bill Marmion said a review of vehicle licensing concessions showed WA's were more than double the national average.

The West Australian

19 January 2017 (?)

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The Hon. Rick Mazza MLC
Member for the Agricultural Region
Parliament of Western Australia
Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party



MEDIA RELEASE

Mazza Says Country Shires Will Feel Loss of Vehicle License Fee Concessions

As part of its desperate effort to repair the state budget deficit the Western Australian government has removed motor vehicle license fee concessions for local government authority vehicles.

Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party MLC Rick Mazza said he was very disappointed that local government will now carry the burden for the state's poor financial decisions.

Local government authorities will have no alternative other than to pass their additional costs onto their rate payers.

"It will transfer state government tax collection right down to the level of the local rate payer" he said.

Mr Mazza said he objected to the state government using local government authorities as de facto tax collectors.

He said "Many country shires have a small rate payer base, so the effect of this will be much more noticeable in rural and remote areas".

Mr Mazza said he had been contacted by several local government authorities, including the Shire of Cuballing, who had written to him indicating that rates income may have to increase by up to 2.4% to compensate for the loss of concessions.

Media Release

2 February 2017



Elected Member Timetable – IP&R Review 2017

FEBRUARY

- ICT Plan (CM)
- Workforce Plan (CM)
- ****Corporate Business Plan**** (CM)
- Community Strategic Plan (BS - 1st Cr Workshop)
- Asset Management Plan (Current Plan)

MARCH

- Community Strategic Plan (Community Consultation)
- Asset Management Plan (BS – Workshop and Scenarios)
- Risk Management Plan (CM)



Elected Member Timetable – IP&R Review 2017

APRIL

- Community Strategic Plan (Community Consultation)
- Asset Management Plan (CM)
- Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery Plan (CM)

MAY

- Community Strategic Plan (BS - Workshop CC outcomes)

JUNE

- Community Strategic Plan (BS – Workshop Draft Plan)



Elected Member Timetable – IP&R Review 2017

JULY

- Community Strategic Plan (CM)

AUGUST

- Corporate Business Plan (BS – Workshop)
- Long Term Financial Plan (BS)

SEPTEMBER

- Long Term Financial Plan (CM)



Other

- HR Update – Dominique & Senior Admin Officer, Brodie
- Airport Billboards – implementation for 30/6/17
- Mid-Year Budget Review
- Compliance Audit Return
- (Fully) Electronic Records Implementation

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Attachment Two

Report of a Meeting with Mr Joe Francis,

Minister responsible for Department of Fire and Emergency Services. (DFES)

Tuesday, 31 January 2017.

Kojonup Shire Council was invited to attend a meeting with Mr Francis to discuss and present views and concerns in respect to our relationship with DFES. This discussion is directly related to the recommendations of Euan Fergusson's report to the Government that "fundamental change" was needed at DFES.

The Minister suggested that the points below were areas that he wished to seek information on, specifically related to the formation of a Rural Fire Service (RFS)

- Independent or sub department of DFES?
- Responsibilities of RFS- response/mitigation
- Transfer of current Local Brigades to RFS.
- Inclusion/integration of Volunteer Fire and Rescue Brigades (VFRS) into RFS in regional areas.
- Transfer of Control of incidents between RFS and DFES
- Hazard management Agency for Bushfires.

Prior to the meeting with Minister Francis the Shire President convened a meeting with the CEO, CBFCO (Tony Fisher), immediate retired CBFCO (Digby Stretch) and Robert Sexton (presiding officer BFAC). This meeting was to form a view and response to the dot points above. Previous Committee decisions (accepted by Council) were also referred to and accepted as Council policy. Although the meeting was extensive in discussion the position that was adopted was relatively simple and is as follows:

- *Independent or sub department of DFES?*
We are strongly in favour of an independent RFS. (Recommendation 15 of the Fergusson report). Clearly, as our history shows, any over-arching body that is in a position to dictate standards, take control or make other demands on Local government process or Brigade mode of operation will not be any advantage to our Bushfire structure.
- *Responsibilities of RFS- response/mitigation.*
We are strongly in favour that the Bushfire Structure as contained in the Bushfires Act (BFA) and the Local Government Act (LGA) be retained. That is: that the Brigades creation, appointment of officers and managing of Fire Mitigation and Fire Control should be conducted at a local level in Kojonup.
- *Transfer of current Local Brigades to RFS.*
We have no objection of any other Local Government or their Brigades transferring to the RFS if that is their wish.

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- *Inclusion/integration of Volunteer Fire and Rescue Brigades (VFRS) into RFS in regional areas.*
We are strongly of the view that the VFRS should be retained in their present form and not be integrated into the RFS. The VFRS are a specialised group who have a different function to the Bushfire Brigades, our strong view is that they function very well in their present structure and liaise effectively with the Bushfire Brigades when it is mutually necessary.
- *Transfer of Control of incidents between RFS and DFES*
The present regime of transference of control has not been an issue with us nor has our relationship between DFES and the Bushfire Brigades.
- *Hazard management Agency for Bushfires.*
Our view is that an Agency is not required. The LGA and the BFA provides the necessary power and flexibility for the management of hazards. The enactment of Local Laws (Fire Break order) hazard inspections by officers and fuel reduction programmes all address this area.

The view of the above meeting was that the Shire President would articulate the above responses with all the authority of that office.

The Meeting with the Minister, Mr Joe Francis

The meeting was also attended by other Local Government authorities, Boyup Brook, Bridgetown, Donnybrook, Esperance, Albany, Denmark, Manjimup and others who were not formally identified. As there was about thirty persons present, President Ronnie Fleay, seized the opportunity to present our views first before the meeting became entangled in other issues, Kojonup's responses therefore were made very clear and as strongly possible, we were supported by others who held much the same views. In particular, we advised the meeting (and Minister) that we had a very good record of fire management and had been served well by the BFA and the LGA and we would resist any change to that situation. Also (strongly articulated) that the VFRS should continue in their present form.

As would be expected from such a meeting a very wide scale of opinion was presented to the minister. Kojonup at one end of the scale saying that we did not want other agencies interfering with Bushfire management and Denmark at the other end of the scale complaining that they could not get DFES to take control of managing fire. We have not had the same problems in the management of fire as others nor do we have the difficulties (as others have) in our relationship with DFES so we did not take part in that debate.

In summary, it would be fair to say that there was a universal complaint about the culture of DFES, the Minister accepted that view. It would also be fair to say that the meeting did not have a consensus view on a standalone RFS or a sub set of DFES, the Minister did not directly indicate any preference other than cautioning the meeting that funding a new agency could be an issue.

The distribution of the ESL and the restriction of its use was also universally criticised. That complaint spilled over into the funding of vehicles that were very expensive and "not fit for purpose", there was a clear consensus that the funding of "slip on units" was a far more effective

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use of the ESL than the present class of vehicles. The minister appeared to accept this view but warned that the units would have to be of a universal standard, he also warned that training for the use of such units would also have to be at a minimum standard. This statement alarmed many of the attendees who then argued that “risk aversion” was driving many of the standards rather than the practical use of the appliance (to extinguish fire).

We have come away with a feeling that the “fundamental change” advocated by Euan Fergusson will be very difficult to implement as the Government is not getting a clear consensus opinion. Therefore, it can be concluded that the most likely outcome will be for government to try and effect change from inside the structure. This situation is compounded by the fact that a state election is imminent, we can expect some time to elapse before any decision will be made.

We will recommend that the Council prepare a paper to present Kojonup’s views to the Minister in a formal submission.

Ronnie Fleay (Shire President) & Robert Sexton (Presiding Member BFAC) 1/2/2017