

**WAGAIT SHIRE COUNCIL**

**MONTHLY MEETING – TUESDAY, 15 JULY 2008**

**MINUTES**

<b>Present:</b>	Peter Clee	- President
	Karen Duncan	- Vice President
	Ken Pittman	- Councillor
	Vic Stow	- Councillor
	Kerry Murphy	- Councillor
	Wally Lenyszyn	- Chief Executive Officer
<b>Apologies:</b>	Rocco Magnoli	- Councillor

**1. MEETING OPENING**

The Council President Peter Clee opened the meeting at 7.00pm.

**2. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

Monthly Council Meeting - 17 June 2008

**Resolution No. 08/01**

**That the minutes of the Monthly Meeting of 17 June 2008 be accepted.**

**Moved: Cr Murphy**  
**Seconded: Vice President Duncan**  
**Vote: Carried 5-0**

**2.1 Matters Arising from the Minutes:**

Nil

**Resolution No. 08/02**

**That Standing Orders be suspended to allow addresses and discussions with guests.**

**Moved: President Clee**  
**Seconded: Cr Stow**  
**Vote: Carried 5-0**

The President welcomed Mr Geoff Hutchinson, Health Centre Manager, and asked him to address the meeting.

Mr Hutchinson presented the following report (refer attachment to Minutes)

The following additional comments were made at the meeting:

- There is a person who is looking at establishing satellite medical clinics within rural and remote areas. It may be able to access the service on a trial period.
- There would be a cost to the Council in having a doctor providing a service from the Clinic.

It is evident that there is a demand for medical services from the statistics provided.

- There has been a shortage of nurses for some time.
- Consideration should be given to elevating the status of the Wagait Beach Clinic.
- The biggest problem with the service is that people are contacting nurses direct and going through the District Medical Officer.

The President thanked Mr Hutchinson for attending the meeting and presenting his detailed report. He passed on the Council's appreciation for the manner in which the clinic was being conducted and the personal effort of Mr Hutchinson.

In addition to the report the Chief Executive Officer brought to the Council's attention the following correspondence from Ms Tricia Wake, Manager, Top End remote Health Services:

*"A general review of activity does show that the facility is currently being well utilised. As such, Top End Remote Health Services will continue to maintain the existing arrangements. In overall terms, the Department of Health and Community Services is committed to working closely with the community to improving their health and the Department will continue to explore a range of options to meet the increasing needs of this area."*

**Resolution 08/04**  
**That Standing Orders be resumed.**

**Moved: Vice President Duncan**  
**Seconded: President Cleo**  
**Vote: Carried 5-0**

#### **Health Services**

**Resolution No. 08/05**  
**That Council seek clarification from Ms Tricia Wake, on what options are being explored to improve health services at Wagait Beach.**

**Moved: Cr Stow**  
**Seconded: Vice President Duncan**  
**Vote: Carried 5-0**

**Resolution No. 08/06**  
**That Council undertake an evaluation of the health needs of the immediate area with the view to seeking a deputation to the Minister for Health for funding assistance to have a full time doctor located at the Wagait Beach Clinic an assurance that the existing service will be staffed with the full complement of nurses and that the status of the Wagait Beach Clinic be upgraded.**

**Moved: Cr Murphy**  
**Seconded: Cr Pittman**  
**Vote: Carried 5-0**

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### 3. INWARDS CORRESPONDENCE

#### 3.1 Local Government Managers Australia

Thanking past President Stow for the contribution he made to the 2008 LGMA Congress.

*"LGMA is proud of its annual Congress and the significant contribution it makes to the sharing of information and ideas among Australian local government practitioners. I am very pleased that you were part of this important forum.*

*I also thank you for having provided a copy of your presentation. It will be published on the LGMA web site at [www.lgma.org.au](http://www.lgma.org.au). (C 14.3)*

Tabled and Noted

#### 3.2 Minister for Local Government

Responding to Council's correspondence regarding future arrangements for the Council.

*With respect to your requests for an upfront payment to cover costs associated with a change to your Council's name I can advise that I am unable to agree to your request for a grant for this purpose. I note it was a decision of your Council to change your name and in these circumstances your Council should bear the costs of its name change.*

*You have also enquired as to the possibility of your Council using the same business management systems as the new shires. Unfortunately, it is not possible for the business system procured by the new shires to be made available to your Council at this stage.*

*You have also sought an assurance that you will receive no less than previous years in operating grants through the Northern Territory Grants Commission. I have taken steps to assure this is the case with your NT Operational Grants but I am unable to give you any specific assurance relating to Financial Assistance Grants." (C 16.1)*

(Refer Attachment Pg 1)

#### **Resolution No. 08/07**

**That Council express its disappointment to the Minister for Local Government in his failure to recognise the impost of changes to the Wagait Shire as a direct consequence of the Government's local government reform agenda.**

**Moved: President Clee  
Seconded: Cr Stow  
Vote: Carried 5-0**

### 3.3 Darryl Withnall

Forwarding a copy of correspondence forwarded to Senator Trish Crossin expressing concern that the community does not have access to ADSL wired broadband and as a consequence is having to pay a lot more for internet access. In addition, with Telstra proposing to discontinue its ISDN home service the community will be at the will of Telstra having to use the next-G service. (Refer Attachment Pg 3) (T 1)

#### **Resolution No. 08/08**

**That the Council support Mr Withnall in his endeavours to have improved broadband access at Wagait Beach.**

**Moved: Cr Stow**  
**Seconded: Cr Murphy**  
**Vote: Carried 5-0**

### 3.4 Department of Planning and Infrastructure

Seeking comment from the Council on the proposed development application submitted by Kelly and Stephen Howe for the construction of a house at 11 DeLissa Drive Wagait Beach.

The application is to vary a previous application to which the Council did not object.

In this instance, the applicants propose to amend the original application by way of variations to side setbacks and height limitation.

The applicants now propose:

- To increase the height of the building from the maximum of 8.5 metres to 9.5 metres for the arched roof of the living zone.

Since the original submission for Development Permit a site survey and geotechnical investigation has been undertaken which has identified several issues which necessitates a slight mounding to negate effects of possible inundation and adverse impact on subsurface drainage.

- To reduce the 5 metre garage setback to 3 metres and reduce the 10 metre dwelling setback to 6.650 metres from the eastern boundary and 8.820 metres from the western boundary. (N 4.6)

#### **Resolution No 08/09**

**That the Council object to any changes to the previous plan for the construction of a dwelling upon 11 DeLissa drive Wagait beach.**

**Moved: Cr Stow**  
**Seconded: Cr Murphy**  
**Vote: Carried 4-1 Cr Clee against**

### 3.5 Minister for Local Government

Advising that the Minister will consider Council's correspondence concerning library funding at the earliest opportunity. (L 2)

Tabled and Noted

### 3.6 Local Government Department

Forwarding details of the Council's 2008/2009 NT Operational Subsidy funding levels.

*"The NT Operational Subsidy is provided to your Council to assist with the provision of local government core services"*

The Council received the sum of \$145,017, which is the same as last years allocation. (G 1.6)

#### **Resolution No 08/10**

**That the Council express its disappointment to the Local Government Department that the funds it received for NT Operational Subsidy represents a decrease in real terms.**

**Moved: President Cleo**  
**Seconded: Cr Murphy**  
**Vote: Carried 5-0**

### 3.7 The Hon Warren Snowdon MP

Responding to Councils correspondence dealing with aboriginal drunkenness.

Mr Snowdon has advised that he will make representation to Minister Macklin about the intervention and excess alcohol consumption.

Minister Snowdon has offered the following suggestions to deal with the problem:

- For problems on the ferry, Council, police, Belyuen representatives and NT Government agencies should get together to discuss the problem.
- Consider introducing different alcohol strategies as exist at Katherine and elsewhere.
- Introduce alcohol rehabilitation programs.
- Information has been sought from the NT Minister on police presence.
- An opportunity will be available for the Council and community to make representations to the Review committee. (B 2)

(Refer Attachment Pg 6 )

**It was agreed that the matter be deferred to the next meeting pending a response from the Minister**

### 3.8 Ms Aileen Blyth

Ms Blyth has a property at Lot 136 Erickson Crescent Wagait Beach.

Ms Blyth sought information from the Department of Land Administration for permission to build a home on the property within the drainage easement to the Northern Territory.

(Refer Attachment pg ) for details of where the proposed house is to be located. This site has been chosen as it is alleged to be the driest part of the block.

Ms Blyth is prepared to undertake drainage works that will not interfere with the natural flow of water.

Should the Council require, the Council may impose a condition that a culvert be constructed in Erickson Crescent.

#### **Resolution No. 08/11**

**That Council advise Ms Blyth that Council has no requirements in relation to drainage matters associated with lot 136 Erickson Crescent.**

**Moved: President Clee**  
**Seconded: Cr Murphy**  
**Vote: Carried 5-0**

## 4. REPORTS:

### 4.1 CEO's Report

#### 4.1.1 Local Government Reform Issues

##### 4.1.1.1 2008 Elections

By Order of the Minister for Local Government published in the Government Gazette the Minister has fixed the 25 October 2008 as the date of the next general election for the Wagait Shire Council. The term of the Council will be four years.

The same Gazette also confirms the name change to Wagait Shire and Wagait Shire Council.

Tabled and Noted

##### 4.1.1.2 Appointment of Returning Officer / Conduct of Election

The Council was required to appoint a Returning Officer for the forthcoming election by the 1 July 2008.

As the Council did not make an appointment, by default, the Electoral Commission will exercise powers and functions of the Returning Officer.

The Electoral Commission has quoted \$2,731 to undertake the poll on behalf of the Council. The cost could increase if the Council were to agree to an election of the Principal Member.

**Resolution No. 8/12**

**That pursuant to Regulation 65 of the Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2008 the Council agree to the NT Electoral Commission undertaking the duties of Returning Officer and conducting elections on behalf of the Council in October 2008.**

**Moved: Vice President Duncan**  
**Seconded: Cr Stow**  
**Vote: Carried 5-0**

4.1.1.3 Election or Appointment of Principal Officer

The new Local Government Act provides that a Shire Council may by special resolution (¾ majority) change the basis of filling the office of Principal Officer.

The options are for the Principal Member to be either appointed by the Council or elected by the community.

The decision must be made at least three months, but not more than nine months by the end of that term.

**Special Resolution No 08/01**

**That the determination of the Council Principal Officer for the next Council term be by way of appointment by the Council.**

**Moved: Cr Pittman**  
**Seconded: Vice President Duncan**  
**Vote: Carried 5-0**

4.1.1.5 Casting Vote of Chairman

Under the present legislation, the Chair of a meeting does not have a casting vote in the event of there being an equality of votes cast on any motion before the Chair.

This matter has not been of any significant concern in the past as we have been able to appoint proxies and there has nearly always been an odd number of Councillors. We now have a situation where with one Councillor away, there will be an even number.

An equality of votes will determine a matter in the negative.

Legislation is in place that will allow the Council to review the matter at the first meeting following the next election.

Tabled and Noted

#### 4.1.1.6 Authorised Officers

Prior to any officer being able to act or institute any proceedings under the new Local Government Act, it is necessary to obtain Council authorisation.

The authorisation is mainly required to allow officers to enter upon property and ascertain the identity of persons.

**It was agreed that this matter be held over to the next meeting.**

#### 4.1.1.7 Code of Conduct

The new Local Government Act requires the Council to have a Code of Conduct.

The Code of Conduct must govern the conduct of members of the Council, members of local boards, and members of Council committees.

Unless a Council has a Code of Conduct of its own, the Code prescribed in the Local Government Act shall apply. (Ref Att. Pg )

**Resolution No. 08/13**

**That pursuant to Section 77 of the Local Government Act 2008 the Council adopts the Local Government Act Code of Conduct for the governance of its members of the Council.**

**Moved: Cr Murphy**  
**Seconded: Vice President Duncan**  
**Vote: Carried 5-0**

#### 4.1.1.8 Regional Management Plan

A copy of the Regional Management Plan was provided to Councillors at the last meeting.

Councillors are asked for any comments.

#### 4.1.1.9 Computer Services

Arrangements have been entered into with IT Vision and LGANT for the provision of computer services for the next twelve months. The service to be provided is as agreed to at the last Council meeting.

Tabled and Noted



4.1.2 Monthly Status Report

Please find attached (Att. Pg 2) the current Status Report detailing action taken by Council staff on decisions made by the Council.

The report is open for any questions from Councillors.

Tabled and Noted

4.1.3 Indigenous Jobs' Initiative 2008/09 Matching Funds Scheme

I have now been able to clarify the position of gaining access to these funds.

The Department of Local Government Housing & Sport have provided advice on the Indigenous Jobs' Initiative 2008/09 Matching Funds Scheme.

*"The Scheme offers local government councils additional funding from the Australian Government to support Indigenous employment opportunities in remote and regional areas of the Territory provided that local government councils also commit a matching value of funding from specified Northern Territory grants to the initiative.*

*In 2008/09 Cox Peninsula Council can access up to \$70,847 in matching funding."*

This fund could supply the necessary funds to employ a full-time Sport and Recreation Officer with Council's matching contribution coming from our 2008/09 Sport and Recreation grant allocation.

I have received advice that these funds are available to the Council at any time, providing the Council can match the amount sought. I have still not received confirmation on how much we will receive in Sport and Recreation funding.

At the present time, we are seeking a grant of \$31,500 from the Sport and recreation fund to which the Council contribute an additional \$8,700.

**Resolution No. 08/14**

**That Council investigate the possibility of creating an Office traineeship position.**

**Moved: Vice President Duncan**

**Seconded: Cr Murphy**

**Vote: Carried 5-0\**

4.1.4 Visitors / Campers

Councillors would have observed that there has been an influx of caravans and campervans to the estate.

The problem being, where do they stay.

**Resolution 08/15**

**That the Council investigate the possibility of asking for a donation from campers staying at the Wagait Beach Sportsground and that any tenancy at the Sportsground be short term only.**

**Moved: Vice President Duncan**  
**Seconded: Cr Stow**  
**Vote: Carried 5-0**

4.1.5 Signing of Cheques

Council at its last meeting resolved that it was necessary for either the Principal Officer or Deputy Principal Officer together with either the CEO or Admin Officer sign cheques on behalf of the Council.

Since this resolution I have had the occasion that both council members have been absent resulting in two casual workers, the cleaner, the insurance policy not being able to be paid.

The Council is asked to reconsider its decision.

**The President suggested that we should be looking at paying accounts by EFT as this would avoid the problems.**

**The CEO stated that there was at least one person in the above example who does not have access to a bank account at Wagait Beach and would not benefit from payment by EFT.**

**It was agreed that the matter be revisited in one months time.**

4.1.6 Multi Purpose Court Repairs

The suppliers of the original court did not pay us a visit to examine the damage to the courts.

Accordingly arrangements have been made for a local contractor to inspect the court and undertake the repairs.

**Resolution No. 08/16**

**That the Council make an application from the Grass Roots Development fund for funding to undertake repairs to the Wagait Beach Multi-purpose court.**

**Moved: Cr Stow**  
**Seconded: Cr Murphy**  
**Vote: Carried 5-0**

#### 4.1.7 Memorial Park

I have received advice that there are no requirements or regulations for the establishment of a memorial park for the placement of ashes.

Given this advice it may be appropriate for Council to call for expressions of interest for the design of a memorial park.

#### **Resolution No. 08/17**

**That the Council call for expressions of interest from persons interested in submitting a design for a memorial garden/park at Wagait Beach.**

**Moved: Vice President Duncan**  
**Seconded: Cr Murphy**  
**Vote: Carried 5-0**

#### **Works Report:**

##### **4.2.1 General Matters**

##### **4.2.1.1 Mr Peter McLinden, Consulting Engineer**

Mr McLinden has been invited to the meeting to address the following issues:

1. Possibility of using funds from the Local Area Traffic Management Program to fill in the drain along Wagait Tower Road.
2. Sportsground Bore.

**Mr McLinden did not attend the meeting.**

##### **4.2.2 Works Supervisor's Report**

Mr Zikan has submitted the following report: for June - July

##### **4.2.2.1 Dogs**

No reports of cross-bred Dingoes or Feral Cats have been received.

#### 4.2.2.2 Dump

All green waste has been pushed up by Council and has been burned by persons unknown.

Raking of the disposal area continues to be undertaken three times per week and burning of the hole is undertaken four days per week.

We will shortly need to clear another area at the back of the dump for building waste.

Within the next 2-3 weeks we will attempt to improve the road access.

#### 4.2.2.3 Water

The bores are still being operated manually due to a malfunction somewhere in the system. As has been previously reported by the Works Dept., we have notified PowerWater and they have indicated their desire to rectify the problem and bring things back to normal as soon as possible. Powerwater have not been able to resolve the problem.

A recent inspection by PowerWater has identified that the internal bladder of the tank needs replacement. Work has begun on this project.

We continued to receive a number of callouts during the period for which Powerwater have been billed.

We have completed the clearing of the water way from Imulak Spring and associated works, including fence replacement, fulfilling our obligations with the contract with PowerWater .

#### 4.2.2.4 Jetty

Graffiti was again painted over.

More barnacles were removed.

Regular washing down and removal of litter undertaken

There continues to be an increase in the amount of litter in the carpark, particularly under the large tree.

#### 4.2.2.5 Labourer's absence

It has become necessary to employ, on a casual and when needed basis, a labourer over the past 3 weeks due to sick leave taken by the permanent works labourer.

Some works have also been put back due to his absence.

Cox Peninsula 13/8/08 9:09 AM

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#### 4.2.2.6 Equipment

##### Community Centre

Community Centre Genset continues to be started on a weekly basis and run for 1.5hrs. We are currently looking for a back-up power supply for the battery. In the process of fitting an exhaust to stop gasses from entering the complex.

##### Pressure Cleaner

Water was discovered in the oil reservoir. Inquiries to a local mechanic and the company 'Thinkwater' leaves us with the need to replace the Water Blasting unit. The Honda engine which drives the Water Blaster is still in good condition. The replacement cost is estimated at \$1,500.

**The Council suggested that a quote be obtained from the pump manufacturer.**

##### New Plant Request

Intentions were to obtain quotes for replacement of the Work Ute. However, considering the Ute is still in good condition, the change-over amount could be used instead to help fund the purchase of a small tip truck. Also, the repair or replacement of the Council trailer would become unnecessary.

The following jobs could be undertaken resulting in the saving of a considerable amount of time

The transfer of gravel for road maintenance at the tip, access road to the Plane Wreck Site and Beach access roads / tracks.

To carry the Tractor and Z-trak mower to worksites such as the Plane-Wreck and Tip and to obtain Registration Inspections for the above mentioned vehicles.

As a means to carry water for the maintenance of the BMX Track and to replenish the water supply at the Sportsground, Council office, Workshop and community Centre

##### Cyclone Season Clean Ups

General branch, tree and debris clearing work

##### Tip refuse tidying

I have made inquiries and a second hand Tip Truck with a carrying capacity of 3 tonnes would be obtainable for between 15-\$20,000

**The Council agreed that it was too early to look at plant purchases and that there was no real justification for the tip truck.**

Cox Peninsula 13/8/08 8:45 AM

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Cox Peninsula 13/8/08 8:45 AM

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**Resolution No. 08/18**

**That the Council agree to purchase a new trailer.**

**Moved: Vice President Duncan**  
**Seconded: Cr Pittman**  
**Vote: Carried 5-0**

**Cr Pittman drew to the attention of the Council that there was a kerb bollard missing from the Wagait Tower Road and asked that it be replaced.**

**Cr Pittman drew to the Council's attention that there may be a drainage problem arise in front of L 147 Erickson Crescent unless some work is undertaken by the Council.**

42.2.7 Tidy Towns

It was pleasing to see about a dozen people volunteer to help paint the Roadside Kerbing on Sat. June 28. The section between Forsyth Rd. and the beginning of the Kerbing was painted over on that day. Other kerbing and culverts within the estate are currently being painted by Works staff and volunteers. Also, Works staff have cleared dead trees, repaired and replaced Fencing on the Beach access road leading to the old boatramp. A Major rut is in the process of being repaired on this road.

4.2.2.8 Works Program

Other specific works/projects to be undertaken when time permits include as follows. Please note that these projects are additional to routine works undertaken on a daily basis.

JOB	EST START	EST COMP	COMPLETED
Landscaping at rear of Community Centre	May 08	Subject to finance	
Genset protective cage	April 08	July 08	
Concrete tables & chairs	May 08	Aug.08	
Paint Road Barriers	June 08	September 08	
Gravel Dump Entrance Road	June 08	July 08	
Road Barrier Erickson Cres	May 08	May 08	Yes
Clean up Milady plane wreck site	June 08	June 08	
Cage Sportsground water bubbler	May 08	July 08	
Replace Carpark chain	June 08	June 08	yes
Repair office pressure pump	June 08	June 08	
Repair finishing deck	July 08	July 08	
Repair Pressure Cleaner	(report to Cnl )		
Install Hand Towel Dispensers	June 08	June 08	yes
Relocate/fence caravan sportsground	July 08	August 08	
Obtain Wagait Shire Office Sign	August 08	August 08	

Tabled and Noted

## **Sport & Recreation Report:**

### **4.3.1 General Matters**

#### **4.3.1.1 Damage to Sportsground**

During the last month there was considerable damage caused at the Sportsground.

Although we do not have all of the costs, the damage will probably be in the order of \$2,000 - \$3,000. the matter has been reported to Council's insurers.

Damage consisted of"

- 12 fluoro lights smashed
- 4 ceiling fans destroyed
- 3 toilet doors damaged
- Rear pump room door damaged
- Plumbing below toilet sinks damaged
- The water tank was drained
- Graffiti to stands
- Bottle smashed outside toilet.

The Police have also been advised of a potential suspect. The investigation is continuing.

Hopefully the appointment of the caretaker will overcome the vandalism problems in the future.

Tabled and Noted

#### **Resolution No. 08/19**

**That the Council write to the OIC Police at Palmerston and Humptydoo seeking information on what action the Police have taken in apprehending persons who caused damage at the Sportsground.**

**Moved: Cr Stow**  
**Seconded: Cr Murphy**  
**Vote: Carried 5-0**

#### **4.3.1.2 Sportsground Caretaker**

Two applications were received for the position of Caretaker at the Wagait Beach Sportsground.

Following an assessment of the applications the preferred applicant is Mr Robert Miller of Wagait Beach. Mr Miller has been advised that he is the preferred applicant.

**Resolution No. 08/20**

That Council endorse the appointment of Mr Robert Miller as Caretaker of the Wagait Beach Sportsground subject to the following conditions:

1. Compliance with all matters listed in the Caretaker Agreement form.
2. The Council thanks Matt and Lil Prouse for the permanent donation of their van for use as a Caretakers residence.
3. The Council will allocate the site upon which the van is to be located.
4. The van shall be painted in a color agreed to by the Council.
5. The Council will assist with the relocation of the van and verandah. Any costs incurred by the Council (other than labour, plant and material costs) shall be shared equally between the two parties.
6. The Council will provide the necessary material to enclose the van with a chain mesh fence and erect the fence with assistance from Mr Miller.

Moved: Cr Stow  
Seconded: Vice President Duncan  
Vote: Carried 5-0

4.3.1.1 Sport and Recreation Officer

No Report

4.3.2 Recreation Officer's Report

No Report submitted

**OFFICERS REPORTS**

**Resolution No. 08/21**

That the Officer's reports be received and accepted.

Moved: President Clee  
Seconded: Cr Stow  
Vote: Carried 5-0

5. **OTHER OR LATE CORRESPONDENCE:**

Monthly Mail List – Inward Correspondence: (Refer Att. Pg 7)

Monthly Mail List – Outward Correspondence: (Refer Att. Pg 8)

Late Correspondence:



**President Clee presented the following report following his visit to the Director of Local Government:**

*Eve,*

*Thank you for the time taken to chat with me in relation to the concerns I have for the current perceived problems that I see in the Local Government Reform process so far as Wagait Shire is concerned.*

*In particular I raised the following points:-*

- The Shire has been excluded from using the new accounting package. I see no good reason for this and consider that the department has deliberately excluded Wagait Shire from participating in this aspect.*
- Shire staff have not been given any training in the new accounting package, assuming it is the departments wish for us to ultimately be included under this package.*
- We were told to GO IT ALONE and make our own way with an accounting / rates package.*
- The shire has received only \$30,000 start up funding despite justification for much more and the minister's verbal indication that we would receive some \$35,000 towards accounting and rates outsourcing*
- The shire has not received any assistance in production of the 2008/09 business plan*
- The shire has not received any assistance in production of the 3 year business plan, all other shires were provided with consultants to get this done and submitted to the shire transition committee.*
- The shire has not been included in group communications discount packages with our TELCO*
- No provision has been made for IT and Accounting Support services previously provided by LGANT*
- No provision has been provided for ongoing Computer maintenance / replacement*
- No provision has been made to develop a new web site*
- We are being prevented/hindered from establishing the use of WAGAIT.nt.gov.au domain name for email / web*
- No provision has been made for the increased Communications Costs to the shire*
- The change of name was forced on us by the new legislation. The name change does cost money, for stationary council signs etc. We should be entitled to an assistance package to reimburse council for these costs. We*

*need at least another \$15,000 plus if there is any cost for web/email upgrade.*

- *We are a new entity and should be treated as such. We are subjected to the same new legislation as are the other new Councils. Council feels that there has been a deliberate effort to exclude Wagait Shire from the reform process.*
- *You did confirm to me that no CEO's received briefings on the new Local Government Act and Regulations. You have promised that Wagait Shire will be included in this process.*
- *The Govt provided establishment costs to the new Shires. Originally the Top End Shire was to receive \$1m. Why was this amount not given to the 4 sub entities when Top-End Shire proposal was axed?*
- *We were advised that establishment funding would be available for the first three years. Will Wagait Shire see any more after this year?*
- *What expectations does the Dept have in relation to reporting requirements. Currently we do quarterly reports. Will the format of these reports change. Does IT vision cope with the reporting requirements, if not will you pay to have the reporting systems modified to meet your requirements?*
- *The Govt paid for Shire Plans to be prepared for the new councils. We have had to prepare our own an a not so insignificant cost. Will you consider a grant to subsidise this cost?*
- *The new Act requires that certain information to be published on our web page. At the moment we do not have one for the new Shire. We don't have any money to set one up. Will the Department provide the funding so we can set one up for LG Act compliance.*

Cox Peninsula 13/8/08 9:10 AM

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*As discussed we feel that Wagait Shire has been deliberately targeted for rocking the boat when we went up against the Government and trying to buck the system. Has oversights occurred? Is there a deliberate attempt to try to make the Wagait Shire fail? Or has there been any political directive issued from the past or present ministers office to make life difficult for Wagait Shire?*

*Again I thank you for your time and I look forward to receiving your advise on these matters. Please be assured I am happy to meet with you at any mutually convenient time*

**Resolution No. 08/22**

**That the Inwards Correspondence be received and the Outwards correspondence be confirmed.**

**Moved: President Cleo  
Seconded: Cr Stow  
Vote: Carried 5-0**

**The President adjourned the meeting at 9.05pm**

The meeting resumed at 9.11pm

## 6. FINANCIAL MATTERS

### 6.1 Financial Report:

- 6.1.1 Program Report by Account S 13 LG (Acc) Regs: (Ref Att, Pg 9)
- 6.1.2 Bank Reconciliation Statements (Refer Attachment Pg 34)
- 6.1.3 Invoices Paid May (Refer Attachment Pg 37)
- 6.1.4 Outstanding Rates (tabled)

There a small number of ratepayers who have failed to respond to requests for the payment of outstanding rates. Those persons have now been served will collection notices which incurs additional costs of \$143.00.

#### **Resolution No 08/23**

**That the June Monthly Financial Reports be accepted.**

**Moved: Cr Stow  
Seconded: Cr Murphy  
Vote: Carried 5-0**

### 6.2 2008/09 Budget

The Council Budget has now been completed. Refer to last pages in the Shire Plan.

It has been necessary to increase rates by \$20.00 per assessment.

#### **Resolution No 08/24**

**That pursuant to Section 155 of the Local Government Act 2008 the Council declares:**

1. That it proposes to raise \$86,540 in general rates for the 2008/09 financial.
2. The general rates are to be raised by way of a fixed charge of \$220 per allotment of rateable land within the Wagait Shire.
3. That the due date for the payment of rates shall be the 1 September 2008.
4. The payment of general rates will be accepted by quarterly instalments due on the 1 September 2008, 1 December 2008, 1 March 2009, and 1 June 2009.
5. A penalty of 17%per annum will be imposed on all rates and charges not paid by the due date for payment thereof.

**Moved: Cr Murphy  
Seconded: Vice President Duncan  
Vote: Carried 5-0**

### 6.3 Special Purpose Grants

As part of the transitional arrangements for the Wagait Shire Council the Council sought the following funds from the Government to assist with establishment costs of the new Shire:

1. A new computer system, both hardware and software, estimated at \$150,000.
2. Upgrade town entrance signs. Est. \$1800.
3. New Office Sign, \$1,200.
4. New Council Depot Sign, \$1,200
5. Update Council Information Board, \$1,450
6. New Letterhead, \$ 680
7. New Envelopes, \$ 760
8. New With Compliment Slips, \$ 300
9. New Business Cards, \$ 525
10. New Vehicle Decals, \$ 750
11. New Mail Stamp, Seal, \$ 100
12. Other Incidentals, \$5,000

Advice has now been received that the Government is prepared to offer the Council the following Special Purpose Grants as they regard the remainder of the claimed expenses as part of the normal operations of a Council:

SPG 1 \$10,000 for the purpose of assisting the Council in Shire election awareness campaign and the elections to be held in October 2008

SPG 2 \$30,000 for the purpose of assisting the Council in outsourcing accounting and rate function.

A requirement of the grant process is that the Council needs to formally resolve to accept the grants.

**Resolution No. 08/25**

**That Council accept the following Special Purpose Grants in accordance with the conditions of grant;**

**SPG 1 \$10,000 for the purpose of assisting the Council in Shire election awareness campaign and the elections to be held in October 2008**

**SPG 2 \$30,000 for the purpose of assisting the Council in outsourcing accounting and rate function.**

**Moved:** Cr Stow  
**Seconded:** Cr Murphy  
**Vote:** Carried 5-0

#### 6.4 Shire Plan

The Local Government Act requires the Council to prepare a Shire Plan that must contain:

- A Service Delivery Plan
- The Council's Budget
- Community or Strategic Plans
- Long term Financial Plan
- An assessment of:
  - o the adequacy of constitutional arrangements presently in force
  - o the opportunities and challenges for local government service delivery in the council's area
  - o possible changes to the administrative and regulatory framework for delivering local government services
  - o whether possibilities exist for improving local government service delivery by cooperation with other Councils

The Plan is to be adopted by the Council by the 31 July 2008.

Enclosed with Council's Agenda is a copy of the Draft plan for 2008 - 2011.

#### **Resolution No. 08/26**

**That Council accept the draft 2008 – 2011 Shire Plan and offers it for public inspection prior to consideration and adoption at the August Council Meeting.**

**Moved:** Vice President Duncan  
**Seconded:** Cr Murphy  
**Vote:** Carried 5-0

#### **Resolution No. 08/27**

**That Council fix a charge of \$5 for bound copies of the 2008 – 2011 Shire Plan.**

**Moved:** President Clee  
**Seconded:** Cr Stow  
**Vote:** Carried 5-0

#### 6.5 Community Benefit Fund

Applications are currently being called for funding from the Community Benefit Fund.

Grants of up to \$5,000 are available to undertake community projects.

Funds are also available from the vehicle gift and long term loan program.

**Resolution No. 08/28**

**That Council makes application for funding from the Community Benefit Fund to undertake the purchase of a storage container for the Sportsground.**

**Moved: Vice President Duncan  
Seconded: Cr Stow  
Vote: Carried 5-0**

**Resolution No. 08/29**

**That Council makes application for funding from the vehicle gift program to purchase a vehicle to be used in conjunction the Wagait Beach seniors program.**

**Moved: Cr Stow  
Seconded: Vice President Duncan  
Vote: Carried 5-0**

**7. AGENDA ITEMS**

**8. GENERAL BUSINESS**

Cr Pittman suggested that the Council should ensure that all outstanding Council resolutions are attended to prior to the next Council elections.

**9. IN-CAMERA ITEMS**

Nil

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**10. MEETING CLOSE AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

President Clee closed the meeting at 9.44pm .

The next monthly Council Meeting is to be held on Tuesday 19 August 2008 at 7.00pm.

**PRESIDENT:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CEO:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

TWELVE-MONTH REPORT FOR THE WAGAIT OUTREACH HEALTH FACILITY

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The first clinic held at the Wagait Outreach Health Facility (WOHF) commenced on 05/07/07 and since then, a clinic has been held every Tuesday and Thursday night, bar Christmas and New Years Day. Initial attendance rates were on an average 4 clients per night to now where we are seeing up to twelve clients per clinic.

Cox Peninsula 18/7/08 9:49 AM

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ATTENDANCE PER MONTH

July/August 07:	14
September	24
October	25
November	38
December	50
January 08:	62
February	78
March	88
April	51
May	45
June	55
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>530</b>

There have been 17 medical evacuations of clients from Wagait Beach. The Wagait Clinic has proved to be cost effect and expedient in arranging these medical evacuations. The client with a medical condition that requires a medical evacuation, or someone being treated at the clinic are not subject to further time delays which would be the case if they, had had to be, transported, to and from Belyuen, especially if the ferry is going to be used.

For January, February, and March 08 a total of 10.5 extra hours were worked on clinic nights at the Wagait clinic to finish seeing those clients that attended. As the workload has grown to extend past the agreed hours per clinic, an appointment system may have to be put in place.

The population of Wagait Beach has a good mix of all age groups, several antenates and infants, up to 70 school age children; the rest of the population is broken up into the working age group, and than pensioners. My observation of the general health of the Wagait population is, too many people are in the high-risk group for chronic disease. In the eight months since the opening of the Wagait Outreach Facility, Two middle-aged people have died suddenly, another middle aged person has died as a result of a poor lifestyle, and not considering the consequences of this lifestyle. ,Four clients have been diagnosed with different forms of cancer, with a possibility of another two not diagnosed yet. A large number of elderly people, some in their nineties, with multiple chronic diseases, one person in this age group has died in the last ten months. Medical conditions of clients presenting to the Wagait community include

2. alcoholism, angina, asthma, acute respiratory distress, acute appendicitis, allergic reactions, chronic respiratory problems, diabetes 1 & 2, fractures, hypertension, hypothyroidism, hyperventilation, head injury, different heart conditions, influenza, migraine, pregnancy, psychiatric conditions, respiratory problems of child hood, skin conditions, results from smoking, trauma from mva's, mba's, removal of fish hooks, self inflicted injuries, and suturing of injuries from accidents and fighting.

Work generated by these clinics has had a carry on effect where work such as dressings and collection of fasting bloods have taken place. GP requested fasting pathology, and follow-up treatment such as dressings will now be attended on the clinic evenings and a new arrangement with the courier will be put in place, so pathology can be picked up the following morning. All other treatment required by the client, will have to be done at his or her own GP's, or at A&E at Royal Darwin hospital (RDH)

The problem with clinic instigated pathology collection from the WOHF is that the Doctor; Dr. Kayte Evans name and provider number is used. This means that Dr Evans is responsible to ensure appropriate follow up and treatment of adverse results is attended. There is no agreement within the present MOU to support this arrangement. So as of 01/04/08 no further pathology will be ordered, unless requested by the District Medical Officer (DMO) on call. Pathology samples will be collected if the client has a request form from their own GP, and with the client's approval, a copy of results will go to the clients chart at WOHF.

Clear guidelines are being given to the respective hospitals, General Surgery's, and other clinics, that the WOHF is only open for the specified clinic times and that all work after these hours are to be ordered by the DMO on call. Non-Belyuen clients are still to ring the 000, or the DMO, in an emergency, and/or the Health Access Line to access medical advise/treatment outside of the agreed clinic hours.

The WOHF has been setup using the same guidelines as the Departments Top End Remote Health (TERH) Clinics are. For example the same Remote Health's Quality Assurance, Best Practise Guidelines, and the ATLAS, (Clinic Guidelines). Most of the equipment is the same as in other TERH clinics, with the exception of the AED10 Defibrillator, and the Propac Vital Signs Monitor. This equipment will require training for any relief or new staff. All other equipment is common across the Departments Remote Health Centres in the Northern Territory. This allows any Remote Health staff to easily carry on treatment in a new workplace. The other advantage is the ease to order/supply consumeribles.

All Staff manning the WOHF follow the Central Australian Rural Practitioners Association [CARPA} Standard Treatment Manual. The CARPA was developed so that Aboriginal Health Workers (AHW) and Remote Area Nurses (RAN) could follow a standard guideline in the treatment of clients in a remote location. If further treatment is warranted than the DMO is consulted and further treatment can than be given.

The single biggest problem in the acute treatment of clients from the Wagait Community is everyone has their own doctor. This means, when a client who is being treated for one or many chronic diseases by their GP, than comes to the WOHF requesting treatment for a related complaint, the staff, first have to contact the clients doctor for a history. As the Wagait clinic times are after hours this means that 24 hours could pass before any sort of treatment could be provided. The clients other options are to go to their GP, or to Royal Darwin Hospital.

A solution to this problem is to have a visiting/permanent General Practitioner working out of the WOHF. This would allow pathology to be collected, prescriptions written and, through arrangement between the GP and a private pharmacy, medication could be dispensed from the Wagait clinic. The client history would be at the Wagait clinic. The existing arrangement using the Belyuen Nursing Staff will be maintained under the present MOU. The benefits are the nurse on call (who lives in the Wagait community) has ready access



to the clinic and the latest treatment for the client. Also cost effective to the Wagait Community as the staff are already in residence. If a visiting GP position were in place the after hour arrangements would be adapted to suit the GP, eg. First contact the GP. The other option is to use the existing after hour arrangements with Top End Remote Health, where the client rings RDH and talks to the DMO on call.

The existing MOU between Wagait Council and Remote Health is for two, three hour, clinics per week, and all other work is to be instigated by the DMO after consultation between the client and the DMO. This agreement with Wagait Council is to be maintained; no Belyuen staff, are to see a Wagait client unless instructed by the DMO on call.

Because of the perceived racial discrimination between the Remote Health staff and the Wagait community,, verbal and emotional abuse has been experienced by all Belyuen staff from Wagait clients, as shown by the numbers of incident reports handed in since the opening of the Wagait Outreach Facility. A Wagait client has been told of the Departments zero tolerance towards bullying and harassment and as a result of their actions, no female staff are to treat this person. Racial undertones have been expressed by Wagait people to the treatment of Indigenous clients at the WOHF. Other racial comments have been voiced to the Aboriginal Health Worker when she is rostered as first on call.. A zero tolerance to racial discrimination will be enforced. If the client does not wish to be seen by the AHW, that is their choice and their next option, is to go and see their own GP, or go to A&E.

The plans for a 20ha caravan park at the corner of Wagait Tower Road. The plans for a tourist resort at the Mandorah Hotel location. Along with the seasonal influx of tourists will put a further burden on the health resources/staff.

Wagait Outreach Facility has an emergency call system; This Dallas Delta system allows the user contact with Royal Darwin Hospital Switch where they than can request to be put in contact with the DMO on call. This system will allow residents, visitors and tourists who don't know the established procedures to gain medical assistance. and setting.

The staff of Belyuen Health Centre has a vested interest in working with the Wagait community, and would like to express their appreciation towards the Wagait council and staff for their continuing support in setting up this new facility.