

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORTS TO COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD FRIDAY 18 DECEMBER 2015
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INDEX

MAYORAL REPORT	2
ITEM NO. 1 - MAYORAL REPORT	2
ITEMS FOR DECISION	6
ITEM NO. 2 - RECOGNITION OF SERVICE	6
ITEM NO. 3 - JERILDERIE GOLF CLUB (SPORTS CLUB) LEASE-WATER RIGHTS.....	7
ITEM NO. 4 - STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKSHOP	8
ITEM NO. 5 - EMERGENCY SERVICES LEVY	9
ITEM NO. 6 - CHRISTMAS BREAK 2015	10
ITEM NO. 7 - TREE REPLACEMENT PROGRAM	11
ITEMS FOR INFORMATION	12
ITEM NO. 8 - STATEMENT OF BANK BALANCES & SCHEDULE OF	12
INVESTMENT	12
ITEM NO. 9 - NOXIOUS WEEDS / SALEYARDS / TRUCKWASH / STOCK CONTROL	14
ITEM NO. 10 - WORKS IN PROGRESS 9/11/2015 TO 6/12/2015.....	15
CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS	17
ITEM NO. 11 - WUNNAMURRA ESTATE STAGE 2 DEVELOPMENT	17
ITEM NO. 12 - AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS 2016.....	17

This is page 1 of 17 of the General Manager's Reports as submitted to the Ordinary Meeting of Council held Friday 18 December 2015

..... General ManagerMayor

MAYORAL REPORT

ITEM NO. 1 - MAYORAL REPORT

FILE: 03.16.01

FROM: MAYOR

Fit for the Future

At this stage we wait with baited breath for the decision determined by our political masters regarding our future. As usual, our organisation continues to deliver quality service across all areas. Council and the community thank our workforce for their commitment to the daily grind during this time of uncertainty.

RAMROC Chair, Cr Terry Hogan, the General Manager and I attended the Urana Shire Christmas celebrations. This again was another clear example of an organisation continuing to support and acknowledge their workforce, their community and their collaborative partners, all of whom enable the Urana Shire to function.

Murray Darling Association Region 2 AGM

The Region 2 AGM of the Murray Darling Association (MDA) was held in Deniliquin on 27 November 2015. Their AGM was well attended by both LGA members and private members. The Murray Darling Association, for many reasons, appears to be struggling at Executive and Board level. Greg Toll, as a private member, was returned as Chair and Des Bilske, General Manager of Deniliquin Council as Deputy Chair.

Financially the entity seems to be behind the eight ball and much discussion ensued re financial memberships, the method determining contributions and private member affiliation fees.

At this stage the MDA only has operating expenses to carry them through until the end of February 2016.

If the MDA is to remain a credible and sustainable representative voice, some serious soul searching and a renewed methodology will need to be brought to the table.

Kidman Way AGM, Hillston

On 6 and 7 December 2015, the General Manager and I attended the AGM of the Kidman Way Committee. There are six (6) member Councils of this Committee, three (3) of whom were represented.

This is page 2 of 17 of the General Manager's Reports as submitted to the Ordinary Meeting of Council held Friday 18 December 2015

..... General ManagerMayor

Council's Finance Manager, Vicki Sutton, is responsible for the financial reporting for this Committee, and Jerilderie Shire recognises and thanks her for this added responsibility. The Kidman Way Committee also gratefully acknowledged this significant contribution.

The Committee is in meaningful dialogue with Veritech Corporation - Mr Livio Mazzon, progressing the revamp and redevelopment of the Kidman Way website- an exciting new development and a very professional presentation.

Mr John Martin, Cobar Shire Council Tourism Officer, spoke at length about the Caravan and Camping Shows, our reprinted brochure, new banners and representation.

The Executive remains the same, with Carrathool Shire retaining the Chair and Secretariat for a second term and Jerilderie Shire Council/Vicki Sutton retaining the Treasurer's role.

Greg Aplin, MP, Member for Murray

On 8 December, 2015, the General Manager and I attended a meeting with Mr Greg Aplin, MP in Albury. The main reason for the visit was to reinforce our final stance on our Fit For The Future process and to seek his counsel as to how and when the decision will be imparted to us. He really had no intel for us, it just gave us the opportunity to put before him the scuttlebutt that was circulating- interesting but with no news available on our future.

We also spoke at length regarding the 4G reception and the adverse affect it was having on the town television reception. Given Greg's intimate knowledge of the television industry and his contacts, he was able to offer information to guide the community when they seek our advice.

We also mentioned School Presentation Nights and expressed our desire that perhaps in 2016 we could be included on his attendance list.

Our next visit will include a detailed discussion re access and eligibility for as many funding opportunities as possible. Our position should make that an interesting discussion.

Wunnamurra Estate Stage 2 Launch

Monday, 14 December 2015 saw the launch of the Council's latest development initiative.

Council was pleased and encouraged at the level of interest displayed and hopes that this is just the beginning of an exciting new phase for our community.

Interestingly, a large portion of the interest has come from our younger residents, which bodes really well for our future.

ICE Forum, Deniliquin

Councillor Bryce and I attended an ICE Forum convened by the Deniliquin Council (Simon Tonkin) on 26 November 2015. Any information that can inform and alleviate the fallout from this shocking scourge is worth attending and listening to. Thank you Faith for attending with me.

Inland Rail Meeting Narrandera

I would like to thank Councillor Henery for attending the latest Inland Rail Meeting in Narrandera on 11 December 2015. Two (2) points to note:

- Proposal is with Infrastructure Australia
- Talks continuing re “a regional freight line”.

Community Engagements

December is always a real opportunity to get out and about and be part of acknowledging just how productive and challenging life has been for all of us in the last 12 months. Some of my invitations have included the chance to attend:

- Penguin Public Speaking at St Joseph’s Primary School
- Presentation nights at St Joseph’s Primary School and Jerilderie Public School
- Presentation night at Coleambally Central School (Attended by Cr. John Hudson on my behalf – Thank you John)
- 4 Creeks Twilight Market and Christmas Carols (thank you to the organisers Lisa Brackenrig and Karen Sleeman, Four Creeks Committee)

As the Mayor, I really enjoy the fact that we are invited, and I consider it a privilege to attend. We should be very proud of each and every person who contributes to these events, and I congratulate the prize recipients.

I have had many positive comments regarding the Christmas decorations, Carols and banner. Thank you Gaila, Craig, Julie and Heidi.

I would like to thank each and every employee for their loyalty and commitment to our Shire organisation over the last 12 months. There has been much speculation and uncertainty during the Fit for the Future process but, as your representatives, it has always been our priority to ensure that you are all as well placed as possible, whatever the outcome. We are part of a great team in Jerilderie and great teams achieve excellent results.

This is page 4 of 17 of the General Manager’s Reports as submitted to the Ordinary Meeting of Council held Friday 18 December 2015

..... General ManagerMayor

I thank you all for your support in my role as a Councillor and Mayor.

I would particularly like to thank Craig for his guidance and support, and I would like to acknowledge Laurie and Terry for their support and guidance.

And lastly, my thanks to Julie. Her efficient and capable approach to all of life's challenges certainly makes my life less chaotic.

Yours faithfully

Ruth McRae
MAYOR

ITEMS FOR DECISION

ITEM NO. 2 - RECOGNITION OF SERVICE
FILE: 05.23.01
FROM: GENERAL MANAGER

At the April 2012 Council meeting it was resolved to adopt the Recognition of Service Policy, this included awarding staff who have reached 40 and 20 year milestones at the Council.

On 5 December 2015, Council's Truck Driver Michael Pitt achieved the milestone of 20 years service to Council.

Mr Pitt, and members of his family, have been invited to attend today's Council meeting for presentation of his Service Award, followed by morning tea.

The Local Government Act requires a resolution to allow the Council Seal to be placed on the Service Award.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Common Seal of Council be placed on the 20 Year Service Award of Council's Truck Driver, Michael Pitt, to be presented today at the Council meeting.

ITEM NO. 3 - JERILDERIE GOLF CLUB (SPORTS CLUB) LEASE-WATER RIGHTS
FILE: 04.44.06
FROM: GENERAL MANAGER

In March 2002 Council entered into an "Agreement for Sale of Water Rights" with the Jerilderie Golf Club Limited (attachment # 1), purchasing 146 megalitres at a cost of \$58,400. This sale was made on the basis that the Club was in need of an urgent injection of funds and Council took the water as security.

This payment has been generally treated as an interest free loan which, when paid back, the water licence would return to the Golf Club as an asset.

In August 2007, Council and the Club reviewed the situation, resolving to enter into a 99 year lease of the licence, ensuring that the Club would not be in a position of losing the water licence to meet running costs.

Since that time, two Water for Rivers Grants have been secured by the Club which allowed water efficiency infrastructure to be installed in the Club grounds. The 99 year lease has never been executed, partly because the fluctuation in the quantum of water has postponed the finalisation of the lease.

In seeking to complete the matter, it has been agreed that a larger risk will exist with a potential merger of Jerilderie Shire Council with one or other Councils, in that the future Council could see the existence of a water asset as having better allocation in the extended Shire.

To achieve the originally intended outcome of this arrangement, it has been agreed with the Club that the water licence be sold back to the Club at the value of the outstanding funds (now at \$44,400) and payment be made on the basis of an interest free loan.

I have attached financial information which confirms the Club's ability to meet these repayments (attachment # 2).

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- Rescind its August 2007 resolution to enter into a 99 lease with the Jerilderie Golf Club (now trading as the Jerilderie Sports Club)
- Sell Water Access Licence number WAL 13680 and WAL 13681 back to the Jerilderie Sports Club Incorporated for \$44,400
- Agree that payment be over 20 years with nil interest and that the interest rate set for overdue rates at the time be applied to any outstanding payments.

This is page 7 of 17 of the General Manager's Reports as submitted to the Ordinary Meeting of Council held Friday 18 December 2015

..... General ManagerMayor

ITEM NO. 4 - STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKSHOP
FILE: 03.11.05
FROM: GENERAL MANAGER

Council resolved in September 2015 to schedule Ordinary Council Meetings for the current year on the fourth Tuesday of each month except for December 2015 and January 2016.

Traditionally Council has conducted a Special Council Meeting late in January or early in February each year, in the form of a workshop to cover strategic planning issues. At the time of writing this report we are yet to be informed of the results of the State Government's plans under the Fit for the Future program. In any case, the outcome will mean a significant change in the way Local Government operates in Jerilderie as a result of the State Government's decision.

Council's Executive has considered the need for a special strategic planning meeting of Council late in January, recommending Thursday 28 January as the appropriate date. I will be absent from the Shire (annual leave) during the week 30 January and returning on Monday 8 February.

Details of the Workshop, including an information business paper, will be distributed closer to the date. The agenda has been limited to the major topic:

- Fit for the Future
- 10 years achievements to 2015

Items Council wishes to have included in the agenda will be discussed at today's meeting.

The day will commence with morning tea at 9.00am, with lunch provided. The workshop is anticipated to conclude with afternoon tea.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council set the date for the Special Strategic Planning Meeting for Thursday 28th January 2016 commencing at 9.00am, and discuss other business items they wish to be considered for inclusion.

ITEM NO. 5 - EMERGENCY SERVICES LEVY
FILE: 05.03 / 05.04
FROM: GENERAL MANAGER

A media release has been received from the NSW Treasurer and the Minister for Emergency Services jointly (attachment # 3).

This media release advises that from 1 July 2017 the NSW Government will abolish the Emergency Services Levy (ESL) on insurance policies and replace it with an Emergency Services Property Levy (ESPL), paid alongside Council rates.

This reform will mean the burden of funding these services will no longer fall only on those with property insurance, but on all landowners.

Following extensive public consultation in 2012, the NSW Government will now consult with key stakeholders, such as the insurance industry and Local Government, on the implementation of the reforms.

The new levy will be based on unimproved land values and will be collected by Local Government on behalf of the State.

We have expressed concern in the past that even though the up side is that Local Government will now not pay the levy of \$20,000 this financial year, we don't know if we will be paid for the cost of collection and handling the transactions and we will be the point of contact when the State Government jacks up the contribution with no reference to CPI, as they have just done with Local Government contributions to the Rural Fire Service – up to 300% in some categories.

Keith Rhoades, President of LGNSW in the weekly bulletin commented:

“We cautiously welcomed the Government's announcement of changes to Emergency Services funding in NSW this week. LGNSW has been working towards the abolition of the Emergency Services Levy on Councils for many years. I have now written to the NSW Treasurer, Gladys Berejiklian to, amongst other things, confirm that the new Emergency Services Property Levy means the abolition of the Local Government contribution, and I have accepted her invitation for LGNSW to work with the Government in firming up its plans”.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Report be adopted.

This is page 9 of 17 of the General Manager's Reports as submitted to the Ordinary Meeting of Council held Friday 18 December 2015

..... General ManagerMayor

ITEM NO. 6 - CHRISTMAS BREAK 2015
FILE: 05.23
FROM: DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL SERVICES

Council will have a small number of staff working over the Christmas Break from 28 December 2015 to 1 January 2016 to maintain Council's infrastructure, Town maintenance, water and sewerage, parks and gardens and any minor road repairs.

Most of the staff will be back to normal duties in the first week of January 2016, with some taking extended leave during January.

I thank the Engineering and Office staff for their co operation and support of the works that have been achieved during 2015.

Next year will be a very challenging year for us and our neighbouring Councils, but I am sure Jerilderie Shire has the ability to succeed in providing the best outcome for our Council.

I wish all Councillors and your families, the Engineering and Office staff a very Merry Christmas and a happy and safe New Year.

I look forward to working with you all for another successful year in 2016.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Christmas Break report be adopted.

ITEM NO. 7 - TREE REPLACEMENT PROGRAM
FILE: 06.09
FROM: DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL SERVICES

At the November 2015 Council Meeting a report was requested for a removal and replacement program for trees within the main street of Jerilderie.

Attached for Councils information is a photo of the line of trees (various species) on the northern side of Jerilderie Street between Bolton Street and the Sports Centre (attachment # 4). There are approximately 32 trees of various sizes located along this section, with the majority being larger type gum trees.

Over a number of years those trees, like many other trees within the town, have been trimmed and lopped back for various reasons. Also the larger trees have been inhibiting the kerb and guttering in various locations, causing problems in the drainage system.

Coreen Street, between Wood Street and Bolton Street, is another area that has a number of large gum trees that could also be considered for replacement (attachment # 5).

Council provides within the budget funds each year for tree maintenance to cover trimming, lopping and removal throughout the road network and the town area; the 2015/2016 provision is \$42,500.

The estimated cost for removal and replacement of a large tree is approximately \$1,400. Any drainage work would be an additional cost if required.

In this financial year, Council has a replacement program under the Roads to Recovery (R2R) Program for drainage works in Mahonga Street, Coreen Street and O'Neill Street. The replacement of the kerb and guttering will include removal of any trees that are inhibiting the drainage line. Any trees that are removed will be replaced with a suitable species.

I would recommend that Council implement a program, budget permitting, to replace the larger trees in the town area that are causing problems to Council's infrastructure.

RECOMMENDATION

A tree removal and replacement program commence within the budget allocation this year, focusing on Jerilderie Street north side between Bolton Street and Brown Street.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

ITEM NO. 8 - STATEMENT OF BANK BALANCES & SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENT

FILE: 05.13

FROM: FINANCE MANAGER

<u>STATEMENT OF BANK BALANCES</u>	2015-16	2014-15
Cash Book 31 OCTOBER 2015	391,290.32	187,633.19
ADD - Receipts - NOVEMBER	1,293,566.40	1,075,406.88
ADD - Receipts - Bendigo Bank	878.11	1,154.35
ADD - Cancelled	0.00	0.00
ADD - Adjustments	0.00	0.00
LESS - Cheques - NOVEMBER	-5,884.63	-43,862.58
LESS - Autopay	-669,288.94	-515,548.72
LESS - Bank Charges	-8,704.36	-3,113.94
LESS - Loans	-10,753.99	-10,753.99
LESS - Investments	0.00	0.00
CASH AT BANK 30 NOVEMBER 2015	991,102.91	690,915.19
 Bank Statement 30 NOVEMBER 2015	 953,025.00	 665,276.10
Bank Statement - Bendigo Bank	38,077.91	26,540.96
PLUS Outstanding Deposits	0.00	0.00
LESS Unpresented Cheques	0.00	-901.87
LESS Outstanding Autopay	0.00	0.00
LESS Reverse Autopay	0.00	0.00
CASH AT BANK 30 NOVEMBER 2015	991,102.91	690,915.19
Add Investments	5,591,495.83	5,021,020.73
Total Cash and Investments	6,582,598.74	5,711,935.92
 Represented by:-		
Trust Account	11,659.09	18,298.00
Water Fund	427,679.70	1,032,734.06
Sewer Fund	1,922,453.96	1,851,997.59
Domestic Waste Management	101,804.00	105,000.00
Unexpended Grant Funds	196,669.34	40,114.14
Plant Reserve	150,504.00	1,000,000.00
Employee Leave Entitlement Reserve	746,993.00	700,000.00
Infrastructure Reserve	297,447.00	400,279.00
Residential Housing Reserve	0.00	0.00
General Fund	2,727,388.65	563,513.13

This is page 12 of 17 of the General Manager's Reports as submitted to the Ordinary Meeting of Council held Friday 18 December 2015

..... General ManagerMayor

SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS

Institution	Amount	Rate	Matures	NO.
IMB Ltd	511,366.21	2.75	08/02/16	20
ANZ	400,000.00	3.00	16/01/16	26
Bendigo	400,000.00	2.80	11/01/16	28
ANZ	515,254.50	2.90	14/12/15	29
ANZ	433,873.55	2.90	13/02/16	30
Bendigo	311,185.82	2.50	07/12/15	31
Bendigo	446,701.80	2.55	27/02/16	34
ANZ	519,654.68	2.75	01/02/16	36
Bendigo	311,912.45	2.60	13/01/16	38
ANZ	658,972.76	2.90	20/02/16	41
Bendigo	565,232.43	2.45	03/01/16	43
IMB Ltd	517,341.63	2.75	06/01/16	44

Total Investments **5,591,495.83**

Average Interest Rates	2013/14	3.52%
	2014/15	3.19%
	2015/16	2.74%

PERCENTAGE OF FUNDS HELD

ANZ	2,527,755.49	45.21%
BENDIGO	2,035,032.50	36.40%
IMB LTD	1,028,707.84	18.40%

5,591,495.83

- I hereby certify that:
- 1) the cash book was reconciled with the bank balance as shown by the bank statements as at 30 November 2015
 - 2) the investments have been invested in accordance with the Local Government Act, Regulations and Council's policies.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Statements of Bank Balances and Schedules of Investments as at 30 November 2015 be noted and received.

Vicki Sutton
RESPONSIBLE ACCOUNTING OFFICER

This is page 13 of 17 of the General Manager's Reports as submitted to the Ordinary Meeting of Council held Friday 18 December 2015

..... General Manager Mayor

ITEM NO. 9 - NOXIOUS WEEDS / SALEYARDS / TRUCKWASH / STOCK CONTROL
FILE: 04.21
FROM: DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL SERVICES

Weeds

Road shoulders in the northern section of the Shire have been slashed and sprayed, with 95% treated with Gramoxone to help avoid resistance, as it has been very dry. This has proved to be a better treatment than RoundUp, especially for Fleabane.

Broughshane Lane and Lignum Lane have been treated ahead of the resealing program.

The roads in the southern section of the Shire will be treated as required and weather conditions are suitable.

The Spiny Burrgrass program has seen a large eradication in plant numbers. St Johns Wort and Silverleaf Nightshade plants have increased, Sites have been recorded and will be monitored.

The Weeds Action Plan has been revised due to budget cuts, no change of funding taken from Noxious Weeds component.

Truckwash

Working as required, no problems during the past month.

Stock Control

No reports during the past month.

Saleyards

Tree maintenance within the saleyards, normal maintenance continuing.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Noxious Weeds, Saleyards, Truckwash and Stock Control Report be adopted.

ITEM NO. 10 - WORKS IN PROGRESS 9/11/2015 to 6/12/2015
FILE: 03.16.04
FROM: DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL SERVICES

Regional Roads RR552 – Conargo Road RR564 – Berrigan Road RR323 – Oaklands Road RR59 – Urana Road RR596 – Morundah Road RR356 – Berrigan/Oaklands Road	Repair bleeding reseal, bitumen patching, sign maintenance. Bitumen patching, sign maintenance, shoulder slashing, weed spraying. Shoulder grading, drain maintenance, weed spraying, sign maintenance. Bitumen patching, sign maintenance. Edge patching. Bitumen patching.
MR321 – Kidman Way	Guide post maintenance, sign maintenance, bitumen patching, shoulder spraying, asset inspection, heavy patching programmed and resealing programmed for Segments 2, 16 & 17.
H17 – Newell Highway	Bitumen patching, heavy patching programmed for Segment 106.
Shire Road Maintenance	<i>Bitumen Edge Patching</i> Gilbert Road, Wilson Road, Four Corners Road, Broughshane Lane. <i>Grader Maintenance</i> Woodside Lane, McLennons Bore Road, Greens Lane, Walkers Lane, Anthonys Lane, Woodhams Lane, Logie Brae Road, Hornemans Lane <i>Weed Spraying</i> Cadell Road, Lignum Lane, Broughshane Lane, Hardie Road, Boerema Road, Graham Road, McDonald Road, Bridge Road, Lloyd Road, Hutchings Road, Gilbert Road, Edgecombe Lane. <i>Shoulder Slashing</i> Broughshane Lane, Gilbert Road, Thurrowa Road, Wunnamurra Road, Mairjimmy Road, Mayrung Road <i>Gravel Resheeting</i> Anthonys Lane <i>Fire Breaks</i> Wilson Road, Liddles Lane, Fernbank Road, Kulki Lane, Bundure Road, Milthorpes Lane, North Coree Road.
Roads to Recovery	Lloyd Road to have final 14mm seal, proposed January 2016.

This is page 15 of 17 of the General Manager's Reports as submitted to the Ordinary Meeting of Council held Friday 18 December 2015

..... General ManagerMayor

Town Streets	Tree trimming, bitumen patching, sign maintenance.
Cycleways / PAMPs Program	Pathway Mahonga Street (Doctors) completed. PAMPs program – corner of Betts Street and Coreen Street completed. PAMPs program – corner of Brown Street and Coreen Street in progress.
Water & Sewerage	Water service repairs to raw water. Flushing of mains – raw and filtered. Minor repairs to mains and filtered water meters.
Parks and Gardens	A further 10 roses purchased for Rose Garden at the Cemetery. Parks maintained. Tree maintenance at Monash Park. Tree maintenance within town. Nature strip mowing.
Repair Program RR323	2015/2016 Repair Program on RR323 (Oaklands Road) in progress; shoulder widening completed to prime seal. 2km from Urana / Jerilderie Shire boundary. This section is the final section on RR323 to obtain an 8m seal width on the Oaklands Road within Jerilderie Shire – program started 2007.
Private Works	Grader works / gravel carting. Hospital car park area constructed. Heavy Patching program proposed on MR321, H17 sent to RMS. Resealing program proposed on MR321 (segments 2, 16 & 17), H17 (segment 106) sent to RMS. Hot mix overlay proposed on H17 part segment 104 sent to RMS.

RECOMMENDATION

The Works in Progress Report be adopted.

This is page 16 of 17 of the General Manager's Reports as submitted to the Ordinary Meeting of Council held Friday 18 December 2015

..... General ManagerMayor

CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

ITEM NO. 11 - WUNNAMURRA ESTATE STAGE 2 DEVELOPMENT
FILE: 04.15.02
FROM: GENERAL MANAGER

RECOMMENDATION

That this item be referred to the confidential section of the Council meeting which is closed to the public. This item is classified as confidential under sections 2(d) (i) (ii) and 2(f) of the Local Government Act 1993. The contents of the report is of a commercial nature that would, if disclosed, prejudice the commercial position of the person(s) who supplied the information or confer a commercial advantage to a competitor of the Council and may affect the security of Council property.

ITEM NO. 12 - AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS 2016
FILE: 02.02.02
FROM: GENERAL MANAGER

RECOMMENDATION

This item be referred to the confidential section of the Council meeting which is closed to the public. The item is classified as confidential under section 10A (2) (a) of the Local Government Act 1993, which permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to the following:

10A (2): The matters and information are the following:

(a) personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than Councillors);