

November 24, 2015

ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

TO BE HELD

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2015

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA NO. 1

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Hutch'.

SHARON HUTCH
ACTING GENERAL MANAGER

FURTHER BUSINESS

1. MAYORAL MINUTE NO. 12/15 - DATED NOVEMBER 23, 2015 - RATES
SUBSIDIES FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS IMPACTED BY THE 1998
BOUNDARY EXTENSIONS (11/117)..... 3

ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

November 23, 2015

MAYORAL MINUTE NO. 12/15

SUBJECT: RATES SUBSIDIES FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS IMPACTED BY
THE 1998 BOUNDARY EXTENSIONS 11/117

CURRENT
REFERENCES: ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE GRANT
POLICY

Summary

In March 1998 the then Department of Local Government considered a proposal from Council to extend the boundaries of Broken Hill City to include the area contained in the Willyama Common. Following a period of consultation, the Director General of the Department of Local Government wrote to Council advising of a number of submissions from community groups objecting to the extension of the boundary due to their concerns that their viability would be affected if their properties were to become rateable. The Director General requested Council's position on the issues raised in the submissions.

Council responded in May 1998 to this request advising the department of a resolution to "...make a donation to any existing community group (including non-profit organisations such as gun clubs that objected to the extended boundaries) equivalent to the Council rates payable as a result of any extension of the boundaries...".

In September 1998 the State Government gazetted the approved boundary changes for Broken Hill City following consideration of all submissions and Council's response to the submissions. The resolution by Council to offer a donation equivalent to the rates payable to those community groups affected by the boundary changes was certainly a consideration in the final approval.

Currently, the donations for these groups are allocated from the Community Assistance Grants Program of Council. These donations make up almost half of this program. Approval of these donations are resolved annually as part of the grants program.

Proposed amendments to the Community Assistance Grants Policy, which recommended that the donations to community groups to subsidise land rates be phased out over a period, has prompted submissions from the community groups who objected to the initial boundary changes citing the same issues around continuing viability of their organisations as they did in 1998.

In order to address these concerns, while continuing to improve the management of Council's grants program, it is proposed that the rate subsidies for community groups impacted by the 1998 boundary extensions be allocated from a separate budget item included in Council's annual Operational Plan. This is in line with Council's previous stance of supporting a subsidy to groups who became rateable under the boundary changes. Amendments should then be made to the Community Assistance Grants Policy to remove reference to these particular donations prior to the adoption by Council which will enable the full budget for this Program to be allocated to assist the community as it was intended.

Recommendation

That Mayoral Minute No. 12/15 dated November 23, 2015, be received.

That from 2015/2016 a separate budget item be included in Council's annual Operational Plan to make a donation to any community group existing at the time of the 1998 boundary changes – who had property which became rateable because of these changes - (including non-profit organisations such as gun clubs that objected to the extended boundaries) equivalent to the Council rates payable as a result of any extension of the boundaries.

That the Community Assistance Grants Policy be amended to remove reference to the rates subsidies and the amended Policy be brought back to Council for adoption.

Attachments

There are no attachments for this report.

W CUY
MAYOR