

Shire of Exmouth

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of ELECTORS

## MINUTES



11 February 2021

### CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

I hereby certify that the Minutes and Attachments of the Annual Electors Meeting held on the 11 February 2021 are a true and accurate record of the proceedings contained therein.

*Dalton*  
.....

Shire President

3/2/22  
.....

Dated

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# ANNUAL ELECTORS MEETING MINUTES

Our Vision	To be a prosperous and sustainable community living in harmony with our natural environment.
Our Purpose	To responsibly provide governance for the whole community in the best interest of current and future generations.
Our Strategic Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Diversify and grow our economy in a manner that provides year round employment opportunities</li><li>• To protect and value our unique natural and built environment as we grow our economy.</li><li>• To be a vibrant, passionate and safe community valuing our natural environment and unique heritage</li><li>• To provide open transparent, accountable leadership working in collaboration with our community.</li></ul>

## 1. DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

The Shire President declared the meeting open at 6.00pm.

The Shire President acknowledged the aboriginal people both past and present, as the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet.

The Shire President advised the gallery in adhering to both the *Local Government Act 1995*, and the Shire of Exmouth Meeting Procedures Local Law 2015, it is an offence to record the proceedings of this meeting and asked the gallery to switch off any recording devices, including phones.

He advised the gallery the meeting will be recorded by the Executive Secretary for the purpose of compiling an accurate record of the minutes only; and the recording will be erased once they are confirmed.

## 2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES/APPROVED LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Councillor M (Matthew) Niikkula	Shire President
Councillor B (Ben) Dixon	Deputy Shire President
Councillor G (Gary) Mounsey	
Councillor H (Heather) Lake	

Councillor M (Mark) Lucas

Mr C Woods

Mr M Richardson

Mr M Bird

Mr G Coetzee

Mrs V Shales

Chief Executive Officer

Executive Manager Development Services

Executive Manager Commercial and Community

Executive Manager Corporate Services

Minute Clerk

### **APOLOGIES**

Councillor A (Anne) McCarrol

### **LEAVE**

Nil

### **GALLERY**

- M Schwegelar
- R Schwegelar
- J Bush
- H Jessop
- A Duncan
- J Duncan
- R Koelbel
- J Waller
- A Willmott
- R McGrath

## **3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

That the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Electors of the Shire of Exmouth held on 11 February 2020 be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.

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### **COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

**ITEM 3**

**Res No: 01-0221**

**MOVED: Cr Lucas**

**SECONDED: Cr Dixon**

**That the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Electors of the Shire of Exmouth held on 11 February 2020 be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.**

**CARRIED 5/0**

## **4. RECEIVAL OF THE 2019/2020 ANNUAL REPORT**

That the Electors' of the Shire of Exmouth receive the 2019/2020 Annual Report as adopted by Council at the Ordinary Council Meeting held 17 December 2020, incorporating the Shire President and Chief Executive Officer report, Annual Financial report and Auditors report.

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**RESOLUTION****ITEM 4****Res No: 02-0221****MOVED: Elector: M Schwegelar****SECONDED: Elector: A Duncan**

**That the Electors' of the Shire of Exmouth receive the 2019/2020 Annual Report as adopted by Council at the Ordinary Council Meeting held 17 December 2020, incorporating the Shire President and Chief Executive Officer report, Annual Financial report and Auditors report.**

**CARRIED 5/0****5. GENERAL BUSINESS**

The Shire's President advised that the Council received via e-mail some questions prior to the meeting and they were responded back to Julie Waller.

The Shire President opened Public Question time:

Question by Alan Duncan:

*Mr Duncan referred to the letter regarding use of 1080 baiting poison – sent to the Shire on 22 Sep 2020, to which no response was received. Mr Duncan read the letter:*

*"The communities in the Gascoyne and Pilbara are very concerned about the ongoing deaths of domestic dogs due to 1080 poisoning, amongst other impacts, and are requesting re-evaluation of baiting programs around residential or non-national park areas.*

*Exmouth has had its fair share of dog deaths over the years, along with tourists who are travelling with dogs in WA, and it is becoming apparent that many tourists may not return to areas which could be a threat to their companion animals.*

*Exmouth is renown as a dog friendly tourist destination, with the huge 2020 tourist season still underway, and no sight of slowing down, the Ningaloo Caravan Park had over 140 dogs at one time, and the RAC with similar numbers, which is only expected to increase with international travel restrictions still set in stone for the near future. With other numbers from rentals, other residences it is an estimate that it was over 1000 dogs in town, which included 600 that are registered with the Shire of Exmouth. This is only expected to increase with current travel restrictions.*

*The level of anxiety due to serious concern of safety from 1080 poison is giving areas such as the Gascoyne, and Pilbara a bad name, particularly Exmouth, where tourists already have the worry of dingo encounters. Exmouth is almost totally reliant on tourism, and anything that tarnishes its reputation as a safe area to visit, or live, will affect it financially.*

*Financial reasons are far from the only reason for concern, with 1080 being an agonising death for both targeted and non-target animals, combined with the lack of knowledge around risk to native flora, fauna and soil, and the risk of predatory birds causing these aerial baits to travel, the risk of this bait being in the wrong hands is too high according to hundreds of resident members of our community. Quite often these baits could be carried over a kilometer, maybe a lot further. It is the risk of this bait to be in wrong hands, according to hundreds of members of our community is of great concern.*

*The local community relies on the Shire to maintain a duty of care regarding the safety of residents, tourists and their pets.*

*After meeting with DPAW on the September 11th, 2020, and discussing their program as a group, we found a strong focus on protecting certain native wildlife was outlined as successful from their baiting program in the past, which was informative.*

*However numerous questions and concerns regarding safety of non-target domestic animals, risk to other native animals, because these baits will affect other native animals besides those that were targeted. Among those that are targeted are cats, foxes, dingoes to a certain extent, but dingoes are pretty fluey animals, they don't take those baits and usually require a different form of control. Yes, we found a strong focus on protecting certain native wildlife and outcome was successful. There were numerous questions on protecting non-targeted, domestic animals and risks to other native animals, the need for such vigorous baiting despite large decrease in feral predators, and confidence that non-target beaches/ residential areas are safe from the toxic poison, were not yet met, and left open for better measures..."*

*The Shire's President apologies for interrupting Mr Duncan and requests to summarize his point.*

*Mr Duncan continued on reading the letter:*

*-We ask that Parks and Wildlife re-evaluate their 1080 baiting program and consider the community response. We would like to see an active effort by Shire of Exmouth and DPAW to explore the use of alternative measures near areas which are public use, to eliminate the risks around domestic pet baiting, detrimental impacts on tourism, and native wildlife. We would like to see a commitment to ongoing research of alternatives and education to the community on why they are/aren't using them.*

*-Popular beaches for residents and tourists with pets, for swimming, snorkeling, surfing and families, are Hunters, Lighthouse Bay, (VLF), Bundegi and Wobiri, it would be great to see if there are other ways, that feral animals can be controlled here, and to be free of 1080 poison, or at least a large buffer zone to remove the worry and stress about baits potentially moving.*

*-We ask for you to consider that the threat to people and dogs on the gulf side, from wild dog attack, and Pastoral Baiting, is why many people spend so much time at areas north of the cape, and we want this to be a completely safe place for our pets, and children. Exmouth's beautiful beaches and pet/ children friendly areas are the reason why residents and tourists love it so much. We think that 3-5 km from any residential or non-national park public access areas would be much safer, than the current 2 km zone because we are finding that baits are reaching close to residences, very close to the residence, inside this 2 km buffer zone, which is not acceptable. It is possible that those baits are moving due to the predatory birds.*

*-We think it is very reasonable, to be able to have our town free of the risk of our domestic pets being baited. It is being asked of the community that anywhere which is not Pastoral, or National Park be free of DPAW's 1080 baiting program, or at the very least, explore alternatives, more responsibility and tighter programs, clearer information to the public that is easily accessible. A lot of information went out last year via DPAW and I do commend them for it.*

*The final line is that we ask that we get a response with action plan and time frames within 1 month from now, which was September last year.*

*Mr Duncan requested the Shire to consider the above, would like to work with the Shire together. Mr Duncan noted that he does not request the Shire to "completely ban 1080 from the whole region". Mr Duncan advised that he has a few ideas that he would like to share.*

Response:

- The Shire President advised that The Department Of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) is responsible for the 1080 baiting program and no 1080 baiting occurs on Shire land.
- The Executive Manager of Development Services has spoken with DBCA and they are aware of the community concerns and have formally responded and engaged with the author of the original correspondence. DBCA has offered to create a working group with community members and the Shire would be willing to participate in the working group.

DBCA has also confirmed the following:

- no 1080 baiting occurs on the Jurabi coast because it has been very successful in the past and feral cats, foxes and dingo populations are under control.
- the buffer zone was increased by DBCA to 2 km radius from Shire land.
- DBCA willing to further educate the community.

*Mr Duncan suggested that the Shire could help with the education of the community when there is an influx of visitors in town and advertising of the information.*

The Shire President acknowledged the request.

*Mr Duncan asked who from the Shire will be a representative in the working group.*

Mike Richardson indicated that he would represent the Shire at the first meeting of the proposed DBCA working Group.

Question by Julie Waller:

*Ms Waller referred to the email regarding the housing crisis in the town, at which she has received the response from the Shire.*

Response:

- The Shire does not have a silver-bullet solution to the crisis.
- The Shire has been attending to the problem since July last year on various governmental level.
- The crisis is a ripple effect on the travel restrictions, when all Australians returned and stayed in their home country.

*Ms Waller thanked the Shire's efforts, while noted that it has not been widely communicated to the community.*

Response:

- The Shire leads its communication in a way it does not to cause any over-expectations by the community.
- The Shire President acknowledged efforts of all the Shire's staff behind the scene.
- There will be no fast solutions found by the start of this tourist season unfortunately.

Ms Waller asked regarding the caps on the short-term stays and incentives for locals and rate-payers for the long-term leases, particularly for the tourist season, in order to provide work-force accommodation.

Response:

- The Shire is not placing a cap on short stay accommodation preferring to restrict applications based on planning legislation rather than short term supply and demand impacts.

Ms Waller asked further question regarding 50 of the Home West houses that are empty, whether it has been investigated as an option.

The question is taken on notice by the Chief Executive Officer.

Ms Waller further asked to clarify the rumors regarding the sale of one of the caravan parks in town and local residents being kicked out.

Responded by the CEO:

- The Ningaloo Caravan Park has been sold and settled on 11 January 2021. The new owner has BIG 4 in Dongara and Ocean Beach Caravan Park in Denmark.
- The new owner is planning to spend upwards of 7 million dollars during the next 3-4 years to bring it up to a much higher standard similar to the BIG4 standard.
- The owners of the caravan park are honoring at least 12-month period for the current long-term residents providing them assurance that they won't be displaced for minimum of 12 months.

Ms Waller asked further question regarding the Lighthouse Caravan Park as a potential option of accommodation for self-sustained campers.

Response by the Chief Executive Officer:

- The e-mail request has been sent to the current owner requesting assistance in this regard.
- There are however issues regarding the ability of the existing power, water and sewerage, services to cope with any occupancy.
- CEO asked the Tattarang representative Jules Busch to respond

Further comment is provided by Jules Bush, a representative of Tattarang:

- Poor condition of infrastructure of the caravan park.
- Preparation for demolition has started and further re-development plan.
- Considering the above it is a highly unlikely option of accommodation.

Ms Waller went on to another question about providing financial incentives and the e-mail response of the Shire regarding a release of more land for residential purpose: whether this land development will have a condition to be used as residential rather than investment?

Response by the CEO:

- Similar conditions as applied for Snapper Loop development, where there is no short stay use permitted and the build time will be required in a fixed period of time.



Commented by the Shire President:

- The land was in very high demand when the subdivision was done, so the lottery was held for the applicants with a preference to locals and first home buyers. Further land sale was restricted to a condition to return the land to Landcorp at a same price it was purchased in case it was not developed. These were the reasons the development was quickly built and successful with the residential purpose.
- According to the discussion with Development WA, Sargent Street and Nimitz Street subdivisions would be zoned Residential
- Despite the immediate need for housing Council is committed to prioritizing the medium to long-term development of quality accommodation offerings rather than temporary offerings, to underpin it's positioning as a premium destination into the future.

Question by Mr Duncan question regarding the situation with the old Kailis site

Response by the CEO:

- Several months ago, Kailis advised that they going to submit a development application for the resort in preparation to facilitate tourism accommodation for the solar eclipse in 2023
- There are zoning issues regarding the site and the Shire has advised Kailis regarding the process of re-zoning
- No update on the project has been provided to the Shire since then.

Commented by the Shire President:

- In terms of rezoning the Shire works within the existing legislative framework.

Question by Helen Jessop on the timeframe to re-zone the commercial property like Kailis.

Response by the Shire President:

- The owner will need to instigate the re-zoning.
- The normal process would take 6 to 12 months however at the current circumstances with the Shire's support, it could be fast-tracked by the State government to 6 months, which does not make it in time for the coming tourist season.

## **6. CLOSURE OF MEETING**

The Shire President declared the meeting closed at 6.43 pm.