

Norfolk Island Regional Council

MEDIA RELEASE

COUNCIL MEETING 28 SEPTEMBER 2016

An Extraordinary Meeting of Council was held on 28 September 2016 in the Council Chambers. Three matters were on the Agenda for the Council meeting: Senior Staff Structure; Operational Plan 2016/17; and options for funding Hawaiki Cable.

Generally, staffing matters are operational and therefore dealt with by the General Manager and not normally taken to Council meetings. However, the senior staff structure is a matter that is taken to Council. Council agreed to make the Group Manager Governance position obsolete and instead create two positions - Executive Manager Governance and Human Resources and an Economic Development Coordinator.

The Economic Development Coordinator will cover the functions of Economic Development including promoting business diversification, Tourism, Marketing, Product Development, Visitor Information Centre, Museums and Library. The Executive Manager Governance and Human Resources will cover the functions of Reform Management, Integrated and Corporate Planning, Risk and Internal Audit, Governance, Human Resources, Records, Local Radio and Legal Court Support.

‘There is a small saving in wages with this change in structure. Having both of these positions reporting directly to the General Manager also acknowledges the importance of Economic Development and Tourism for Norfolk Island. Council will advertise for these two positions in the very near future’, Ms Lotta Jackson said.

The Operational Plan 2016/17 was adopted by Council, including the land rating model. The Operational Plan details the activities to be engaged in by Council during the year and details the Revenue Policy, Budget and Schedule of Fees and Charges.

In the meeting, Council made amendments to the Operational Plan and these included - that the proposed *Waste Management Fees General Household Garbage* in the Schedule of Fees and Charges be deleted. Council will now need to consider other avenues to fund the deficit in the Waste Management Fund, whilst at the same time address the matter of securing grant funding for a waste incinerator. Staff will continue to work with the community to reduce waste and increase recycling.

Council also amended the Operational Plan to remove the action to arrange for property valuations for the rating structure for 2017-18. Therefore, it is likely that a non-valuation system will be in place for 2017-18. Legislation requires a value based system for future years.

In the confidential section of the meeting, a report was provided to Council on the 'Options for funding Hawaiki Cable'. It was resolved by Council that it does not proceed with any of the options presented for funding of the Hawaiki Cable in the report presented.

The next Ordinary Council Meeting is scheduled for 19 October 2016 at 2:00pm in the Council Chambers at the Bicentennial Complex.

For details on all matters at the 28 September 2016 please view the Agenda and Minutes by visiting www.norfolkisland.gov.nf.

Lotta Jackson
General Manager

30 September 2016