



COOLOOLA SHIRE COUNCIL

MINUTES

of the

GENERAL MEETING

CHAIRMAN: Cr M Venardos OAM (Mayor)

**Held in the Boardroom
Old Bank Building,
Cnr Nash & Channon Streets,
Gympie Qld 4570**

**On Tuesday, 26th February 2008
at 9.00 am**



Cooloola Shire Council

GENERAL MINUTES

*Mayor MJ Venardos OAM (Chairman),
Crs. CR Chapman OAM, FG Nissen AM, NR Ellis, LJ
Friske, R. Owen, SS Jocumsen, DR Neilson, IT
Petersen, WJ McIntyre, WW Sachs, J Watt and M.
Prior*

APPOINTMENTS

**Mr Peter Locos, Assistant General Manager, Exotic
Production and Mr Mike Robinson, Forest Manager, Fraser
Coast, both from Forestry Plantations Queensland,
addressed Council on Late In Committee Item 1.**

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The meeting commenced at 9.05am.

PRESENT: Mayor M.J. Venardos OAM (Chairman), Crs C.R. Chapman OAM, W.J. McIntyre, J. Watt, W.W. Sachs, I.T. Petersen, D.R. Neilson, S.S. Jocumsen, M. Prior, L.J. Friske, R. Owen and N.R. Ellis.

Also in attendance were Acting Chief Executive Officer (Mr C Manson) and Minutes Clerks (Mrs R. McVicar and Mrs Donelle Shaw).

APOLOGIES:Cr F.G. Nissen AM

Cr J. Watt was not present when the meeting commenced.

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS BY COUNCILLORS

G81/02/08 refers – Cr R. Owen, Cr S.S Jocumsen, Cr W. Sachs - Section 5 – Conflict of Interest.

SECTION 1: OPEN WITH PRAYER

Pastor David Blackburn from the Gympie Baptist Church offered a Prayer for the advancement of the Shire and the true welfare of its people.

One Minutes silence was observed for family and friends of deceased residents of the Shire.

SECTION 2: APOLOGIES

Cr F. G Nissen AM has been granted Leave of Absence from today's meeting (Minute G68/01/08 refers)

G74/02/08 Moved: Cr C.R. Chapman OAM Seconded: Cr W.J. McIntyre

That the apology from Cr F.G Nissen AM be accepted.

Carried

**SECTION 3: CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF
PREVIOUS GENERAL MEETING**

G75/02/08 Moved: Cr L.J. Friske Seconded: Cr M Prior

That the Minutes of the General Meeting held on 19 February 2008 be taken as read and confirmed.

Carried

SECTION 4: PETITIONS

Nil

**SECTION 5 ADOPTION OF ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE
COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

G76/02/08 Moved: Cr I.T. Petersen Seconded: Cr M Prior

That the Recommendations of the Administration and Finance Committee Meeting held on 19 February 2008 as presented, be received, with the exception of F07/02/08, F10/02/08, F17/02/08 and F37/02/08 which are to be withdrawn and dealt with later in the meeting..

Carried

G77/02/08 Moved: Cr I.T. Petersen Seconded: Cr S.S. Jocusen

That the Recommendations of the Administration and Finance Committee Meeting held on 19 February 2008 as amended, be adopted.

Carried

Recommendation F10/02/08 of the Recommendations of the Administration and Finance Committee Meeting held on 19 February 2008.

G78/02/08 Moved: Cr I.T. Petersen Seconded: Cr L.J. Friske

That Recommendation F10/02/08 of the Recommendations of the Administration & Finance Committee Meeting held on 19 February 2008 be adopted.

Carried

G79/02/08 Moved: Cr M Prior Seconded: Cr S.S. Jocusen

That the Public Gallery Co-ordinator update Council as to the progress of a public art strategy.

Further, that the matter be referred to the Gympie Regional Council and the writer be advised accordingly.

Carried

A **DIVISION** was called with the following results:

FOR: Cr N.R. Ellis, Cr L.J. Friske, Cr M. Prior, Cr S.S. Jocusen,
Cr D.R. Neilson, Cr I.T. Petersen, Cr W.W. Sachs, Cr W.J. McIntyre, Cr C.R. Chapman OAM, Cr M.J. Venardos OAM
AGAINST: Cr R. Owen

Cr J. Watt entered the meeting at 9.17am.

Recommendation F37/02/08 of the Recommendations of the Administration and Finance Committee Meeting held on 19 February 2008.

G80/02/08 Moved: Cr I.T. Petersen Seconded: Cr S.S. Jocusen

That the Secoder of Recommendation F37/02/08 be deleted and replaced with Cr N.R. Ellis.

Further that Recommendation F37/02/08 be adopted.

Carried

It was noted in the Minutes of the Administration and Finance Committee Meeting held on 19 February 2008 as follows:-

Councillor Cr R. Owen, Cr S.S. Jocusen and Cr W. Sachs declared conflicts of interest in Item 5/3, remained in the meeting and refrained from voting.

Recommendation F07/02/08 of the Recommendations of the Administration and Finance Committee Meeting held on 19 February 2008.

G81/02/08 Moved: Cr I.T. Petersen Seconded: Cr N.R. Ellis

That Recommendation F07/02/08 of the Recommendations of the Administration and Finance Committee meeting held on 19 February 2008 be received and adopted.

Carried

Recommendation F17/02/08 of the Recommendations of the Administration and Finance Committee Meeting held on 19 February 2008.

G82/02/08 Moved: Cr I.T. Petersen Seconded: Cr S.S. Jocusen

That Recommendation F17/02/08 of the Recommendations of the Administration & Finance Committee Meeting held on 19 February 2008 be deleted, and the following placed in its stead:-

That submissions in relation to the earlier than normal closing of the discount period will be considered at the General Meeting to be held on 4 March 2008, and Council will grant the discount on a case by case basis if hardship is demonstrated and provided the rates are paid by 8 March 2008.

Further, that the submitters be advised as soon as possible.

Carried

SECTION 6: REPORT BY ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN (Cr I Petersen)

Cr I.T Petersen presented the following report to Council:-

The Committee is recommending approval of an application by the Gympie Clay Target Club to site a shed on the Council land leased by the Club.

A Traditional Country Music Weekend is planned for the showgrounds for the weekend of the 13th, 14th, 15th, June 2008. The organisers have booked the Pavilion, and have requested permission to have 200 – 300 caravans camp on the grounds during the festival. Discussions have been held with the Show Society and the Gympie Turf Club who have offered no objections. The Committee is recommending approval of the request with hopes that the festival will become an annual event.

The Gympie and District Historical Society have requested a lease over 6 parcels of land including the Retort House and Lagoon site. There will need to be considerable discussion as Council's Parks and Gardens section has plans for the Retort House area and will be including it in the Lake Alford Recreation Area Master Plan. Accordingly, it is recommended the matter be referred to the Gympie Regional Council to allow further negotiations.

The Committee is recommending that the lease to the Gympie Junior Rugby League Club be renewed on a standard format lease with a timeframe of 9 years and 11 months. The current lease has approximately 14 months to run, but the Club is seeking early renegotiation to allow them to obtain grant funding for major upgrading.

An offer to paint a mural at the Kia Ora Hall has been received. The Committee felt that Council should first seek the views of the community and is recommending accordingly.

Gympie Netball Association has, for some time, been seeking an opportunity to relocate and expand. The Committee is recommending that the matter be referred to the 2008/09 draft budget to allocate adequate funding for a master plan for the major sport and recreation reserves.

A petition was considered from the Cooloola Cove Residents and Friends expressing concerns about a likely rise in sewerage rates when the new sewerage treatment plants are commissioned.

A very detailed report from the Finance Manager, addressed the issues raised and clarified some inaccuracies and misconceptions. The Committee is recommending the principal petitioners be advised as per the report.

That the Recommendations of the Shire Growth & Economic Development Committee Meeting held on 19 February 2008, be adopted.

Carried

<p>SECTION 8: REPORT BY SHIRE GROWTH & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN (Cr J. Watt)</p>
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Cr J. Watt presented the following report to Council:-

Depending on the new Gympie Regional Council's decisions regarding the existence and/or structure of Committees in the next term of Council, the role of the Shire Growth & Economic Development Committee, as others, is uncertain, so this may well be the last report from a Chair of the Shire Growth & Economic Development Committee.

I would like to acknowledge the Chairmanship of Cr Donna Neilson for the first three years and add that it has been a busy 12 months for myself.

As Cooloola Shire Council itself does not actively undertake economic development activities or tourism promotion as such, but provides funding to the Cooloola Regional Development Bureau to undertake these roles, this Committee has provided a link between the two bodies by which to keep Council informed of economic and tourism activities in this region.

The proposed Traveston Crossing Dam has seen an increase of State Government activity in the Economic Development area and both Senior State Development Officer Ms Bridget Edwards and Senior Regional Development Officer, Mrs Celina Ross, have provided informative reports to Council via this Committee.

Cr M. prior left the meeting at 9.27 and returned at 9.28am.

A question was posed by Cr Nissen in the minutes asking if there was a transitional period for the Cooloola Regional Development Bureau. To clarify the answer:-

- *It is a Council resolution and in the constitution of the Cooloola Regional Development Bureau that a President shall be nominated by Council and 4 representatives to be members of the Management Committee of the Cooloola Regional Development Bureau.*
- *The constitution of the Cooloola Regional Development Bureau states "that such representatives shall be appointed by the*

Council as soon as possible after the commencement of the Councils term in Office or from time to time.”

Therefore the only changes to the Cooloola Regional Development Bureau will be the outcomes of appointments that the Gympie Regional Council makes for those 5 positions on the Board. There is no requirement for a transitional period. The Cooloola Regional Development Bureau will continue to operate as normal, but of course with an expanded area of responsibility due to the amalgamations.

I would like to pass on my appreciation to the Corporate Services staff who have worked with both Cr Neilson and myself on this Committee and to the Cooloola Regional Development Bureau staff members and State Government Officers who have provided information to this Council. I would also like to thank fellow Councillors who contributed to the Committee.

G86/02/08 Moved: Cr J. Watt

Seconded: Cr I.T. Petersen

That the report be received.

Carried

SECTION 9: ENGINEERING MATTERS (R. Fredman)

9/1 Concerns re funding for proposed Bruce Highway/Gympie Bypass

Re: **G87/02/08** Concerns re funding for proposed Bruce Highway/Gympie Bypass.
 From: The Hon Anthony Albanese MP, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government Leader of the House, Parliament House Canberra ACT 2600
 File: WM04/00064-A / Doc ID 876911
 Date: 11 February 2008

Thank you for your letter dated 12 December 2007 concerning funding for the proposed Bruce Highway/Gympie Bypass.

I welcome your congratulatory remarks on my recent appointment to the portfolio and appreciate Council's desire to work with the Australian Government on this important issue.

We have made a substantial commitment to nationally significant transport infrastructure, which will form the basis of the AusLink 2 program from 2009-10 to 2013-14. This includes \$2.2 billion for upgrading of the Bruce Highway, with \$200 million specifically earmarked for works between Cooroy and Curra.

We will progress the shape of the AusLink 2 program during 2008 through negotiations with the states to develop a jointly funded commitment to progressing major road and rail projects. The route planning study for the Bruce Highway between Cooroy and Curra, which considers a future bypass of Gympie, is expected to be completed shortly. I look forward to considering its findings and discussing the way forward with the Hon Warren Pitt MP, Queensland Minister for Local Government and Main Roads. Until I have had the opportunity to do so, unfortunately I am unable to comment further on the issues raised.

Thank you for raising this matter.

Report: (Director of Engineering – R. Fredman)

Whilst this letter indicated good progress on the new Cooroy to Curra road link, some clarification is needed. It is likely that the \$200m already allocated is for planning and some land purchases. Council is not aware of what has been expended to date on planning and purchases but it is possibly a significant portion of the \$200m. Detailed design is not part of this funding, nor is the balance of land purchases.

At this time there is no commitment from the Federal Government to begin detailed design, and no doubt in the current climate of reduced Federal Government spending there is a risk that it will not be in AusLink 2. Of course the matter is complicated by the proposed Traveston Crossing dam because of its impact on the highway.

Past experience is that a meeting is the most effective way of communicating with Canberra.

Cr M.J Venardos OAM tabled a letter to the Prime Minister The Hon Kevin Rudd MP.

G87/02/08 Moved: Cr I.T. Petersen Seconded: Cr L.J. Friske

That the report be received.

Further, that Council authorise the Mayor to seek a Deputation with the Hon Anthony Albanese MP Minister for Infrastructure Transport, Regional Development and Local Government to put the case for the Cooroy to Curra road link to be advanced in Auslink 2.

Further, that the Deputation be extended to include the State Minister for Main Roads, Hon Warren Pitt MP, and the Director-General, Department of Main Roads.

Carried

Director of Engineering Mr R.A Fredman entered the meeting at 10.33am

9/2	Vandalism to Rotunda in Memorial Park
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Re: **G88/02/08 and G89/02/08** Vandalism to Rotunda in Memorial Park
From: Parks and Gardens Superintendent – E. French
File:
Date: 21 February 2008

At the General Meeting of Council held on 19 February 2008, the matter of increased vandalism to the Rotunda in Memorial Park was raised.

Minute G69/02/08 from that Meeting follows:

That Council write to the Queensland Police Service and ask them to supervise our Parks.

Further that concealed security cameras be strategically placed to protect the Band Rotunda in Memorial Park.

Further that Council's security service provider be requested to patrol Council's Rotunda in Memorial Park.

Further that a report from relevant staff be presented to the next General Meeting of Council on the general state of the Memorial Park Rotunda.

Late Item 1 Vandalism to Rotunda in Memorial Park – G69/02/08 refers
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Re: Vandalism to Rotunda in Memorial Park – G69/02/08 refers.
From: Park's Superintendent – E. French
File:
Date: 22 February 2008

Report (Parks & Gardens Superintendent – E. French)

Minute G69/02/08 Refers in Part 4. "Further that a report from relevant staff be presented to the next General Meeting of Council on the general state of the Memorial Park Rotunda."

As Council is aware, the Rotunda in Memorial Park, Gympie, has been subjected to vandalism, and has been for many years. Repairs have been undertaken in the past as required, and the contractor with the most experience with this site will repair recent damage as soon as possible. Works will include the securing of the access into the ceiling. The building and surrounds will also be cleaned with a high-pressure water jet and graffiti remover. Other scheduled maintenance will occur at the same time.

Installing security cameras and recording equipment capable of recording images suitable for ensuring successful prosecution of offenders, cabling to a remote location and additional lighting that will be required would be of significant cost. Council has not allocated any funds for this purpose. Any new electronic equipment may also be a target for vandalism.

Director of Engineering Mr R. Fredman entered the meeting at 9.35am.

G88/02/08 Moved: Cr R. Owen Seconded: Cr M Prior

That Item 9/2 and Late Item 1 be received and dealt with concurrently.

Carried

G89/02/08 Moved: Cr N.R. Ellis Seconded: Cr L.J. Friske

That the Parks Superintendent provide for the Draft Budget Meeting the estimated cost of a vandalism recording system for the Memorial Park Rotunda.

Further, that Council staff be authorised to request a report from Council's security provider of times of security patrols at the Rotunda in Memorial Park.

Carried

SECTION 10: LATE ITEMS

Late Item 2 Tender Contract 2007/08 – 15 Carlo Point Pontoon and Gangway

Re: **G90/02/08** Tender Contract 2007/08 – 15 Carlo Point Pontoon and Gangway
From: Design Department
File: WG94/00046
Date: 25 February 2008

Report: (Design Department Manager - R. Chapman)

Tenders were called for this project in October 2007 but the closing period had to be extended whilst site ownership details were clarified. Tenders closed at 12 noon 25 February 2008 with three (3) tenders being received as follows:-

TENDERER	TENDER PRICE (GST inclusive)	OPTION A GST inclusive)
Tidemaster Docking Systems	\$210,210	\$204,050
Superior Jetties	\$330,924	\$292,666
The Jetty Specialists	\$207,778	\$197,519

Option A is for a 1.2 metre wide gangway as compared to 1.8 metres, the width as nominated by the Access Advisory Committee.

The lowest tender from The Jetty Specialists was been reviewed and is considered to be a conforming tender.

The Jetty Specialists are well established in the field and there are no known reasons why its tender should not be accepted.

The 1.8 metre wide gangway price will be just outside Council's budget, but is much preferred due to the length of the ramp, with the narrower width of 1.2 metres being visually discerning over the gangway 25 metres length.

G90/02/08 Moved: Cr MJ Venardos OAM Seconded: Cr M Prior

That the report be received.

Further, that Council accepts the tender from The Jetty Specialists of \$207,778.00 for Contract 2007/08 – 15.

Carried

Director of Engineering Mr R. Fredman left the meeting at 9.38am.

SECTION 11: GENERAL BUSINESS

Particular Species of Moth Under Threat by the Traveston Crossing Dam.
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Cr N. Ellis presented a series of photographs of a particular species of moth found in trees in the Mary Valley which will be inundated by the Traveston

Crossing Dam. Cr Ellis advised Council that the moth was first discovered in the area on 15 April 1906.

G91/02/08 Moved: Cr N.R. Ellis

Seconded: Cr W.W. Sachs

That the matter be referred to the Director of Engineering to investigate a moth breeding phenomenon in the Mary Valley, first publicly reported in a scientific journal in 1911 (first discovered 15 April 1906), and which still occurs to this day, with a view to preparing a submission to the Department of Environment on the impact of the proposed Traveston Crossing Dam on the Mary River.

Carried

<p>Clarification to the media regarding Special General Meeting Minutes – 1 August 2007</p>

Cr N. Ellis drew the media's attention to the content of the Minutes of a Special General Meeting of Council held on Wednesday 1 August 2007, the purpose of which was to consider the State Governments announcement that new Councils consider which method for internal boundaries – divided or undivided, will be the most functional and efficient system in the proposed Gympie Regional Council.

Cr Ellis suggested to the media present that they obtain a copy of the Minutes for clarification on which Councillors voted for and against Divisional representation.

<p>Illegal Dumping</p>

Cr R. Owen tabled the following letter from Mr L. Cook, 184 Kin Kin Road, Canina ALD 4570.

At 8.50am on Monday 4 February 2008 I was walking along Tin Can Bay Road, Canina, approaching the bulk garbage collection area. I saw a grey four wheel drive vehicle registered number 809-IZF towing a grey trailer stopped at the bin site. The driver of that vehicle was dumping non-domestic refuse onto the ground adjacent to the most easterly bin.

Following reports in the Gympie Times where certain councillors requested that residents report dumping to Council and also following a letter from Council informing us that, due to increased clean up costs to Council due to illegal dumping, we would be receiving home bins with the added luxury of

around \$100 extra costs on top of our current rates, I decided to take some action.

I approached this man and asked him why he was dumping when there were no charges at the local tip. I was ignored. I then informed him that his actions were costing me an additional \$100 per annum. He still ignored me and continued to dump.

I took his registration details and contacted Council. The General Inquiry area took the details and I stressed to them that I would give evidence in court if necessary. I asked them what was going to happen. I was assured that if I had the courage to report the matter that Council would back me up in prosecuting the dumper. I was then put through to planning who assured me that the matter would be investigated.

I then returned to the bins and took photographs of the illegally dumped refuse in situ.

Two weeks later I have not heard a thing about this matter and a neighbour showed me an article in one of last weeks editions of the Gympie Times stating that a Councillor had stated that no action would be taken on illegal dumpers.

I was stunned! Obviously Cooloola Council solves its' problem of loss (loss in the context of time, labour, assets and other associated costs of illegal rubbish removal) by slugging ratepayers an additional \$100 per year and allowing this beautiful region to become spoiled by illegal dumping. I am also angry that I took a risk in fronting this dumper with the false knowledge that Council would back me up. Why was I lied to by Councillors and the general inquiry and planning departments of Cooloola Council?

This is the third time I have reported dumping and littering with the result of no action taken.

Today I was listening to contractors working on my property complaining about the wet weather. I was again amazed to hear that Cooloola Council IS taking action against trucks leaving building and other sites and leaving mud on the roadway. I can assure you that I would rather have the mud than have the rotting masses of garbage illegally dumped at bin sites. Dumping at the Tin Can Bay Road, Canina site occurs daily. It would not take Sherlock Holmes to catch and prosecute these individuals. It is a pity that Cooloola Councils only solution to this problem is to penalise ratepayers.

G92/02/08 Moved: Cr R. Owen

Seconded: Cr L.J. Friske

That Council prosecute the offenders of illegal dumping from reports received to Council to the limit of the law.

Further, that the Acting Chief Executive Officer be requested to follow up staff on a reply to Mr L. Cook.

Carried

Road Erosion in Tin Can Bay

Cr M. Prior brought to Council's attention the matter of road erosion at Tin Can Bay in Impey Ave and Trevally Street, and the situation of a levy bank which has been eroded by motorbike action in Toolara Road.

G93/02/08 Moved: Cr M Prior

Seconded: Cr S.S. Jocumsen

That the matter of road erosion and required works in Tin Can Bay be referred to the Director of Engineering for immediate action as necessary.

Carried

Broken Bottles on Foreshore at Tin Can Bay

Cr M. Prior brought to Council's attention the matter of broken bottles which have been uncovered on the Tin Can Bay foreshore due to erosion. Cr Prior has suggested to local residents to participate in clean-up Australia Day to rectify the matter.

G94/02/08 Moved: Cr M Prior

Seconded: Cr S.S. Jocumsen

That the matter of broken glass on the Tin Can Bay foreshore be referred to the Director of Engineering for action as necessary.

Carried

1. De-corporatisation – Queensland Local Governments
2. Local Government Employees Shift to State Industrial Relations System.

Cr D.R Neilson informed Council that she had recently attended an LGAQ Executive Meeting, where the matter of de-corporatisation of Councils in Queensland and the shift of Local Government employees to the State Industrial Relations system was raised. Cr D.R Neilson advised that LGAQ was seeking legal advice on the matters.

Clarification of Cooloola Shire Council's Cash Position.

Cr I.T Petersen wished to clarify the matter of Cooloola Shire Council's cash position, and tabled the following report to Council.

There seems to be some confusion about the cash position of Cooloola Shire Council, with some 'experts' suggesting the 51.844 million end of year balance does not exist and others suggesting that if it does exist we should spend it all immediately on increased funding for roads.

Well the figure is real and as at 24th June 2007 was made up as follows:-

<i>Constrained Works Reserves</i>	<i>11.645 million</i>
<i>Special Projects Reserve</i>	<i>0.979 million</i>
<i>Capital Projects Reserve</i>	<i>15.404 million</i>
<i>General Purpose Reserve</i>	<i>1.415 million</i>
<i>Funded Depreciation</i>	<i>16.404 million</i>
<i>Water and Sewerage Extension Reserve</i>	<i>0.144 million</i>
<i>Revenue received in advance, Retained Surplus, and Working Capital</i>	<i><u>5.853 million</u></i>
<i>Total Cash</i>	<i>51.844 million</i>

The 11.645 million in Constrained Works Reserve includes government grants for specific purposes and developer contributions which can only be spent on the projects for which they were collected.

The 16.404 million in funded depreciation is also constrained in that it must be spent on replacement of the various depreciated capital assets.

The 5.853 million in revenue received in advance, retained surplus and working capital must also be retained to ensure Council's liquidity in its day to day operations.

The 15.404 million in the Capital Projects Reserve is already allocated to essential projects such as roads, waste management facilities, sewerage treatment plants, Tin Can Bay Industrial Estate etc. Some of this reserve could be re-allocated by a decision of Council, but it would be at the expense of projects already identified as being essential, and would require massive borrowings when those projects were implemented.

That leaves 2.538 million in the various Special Projects, General Purpose and Water and Sewerage Reserves. Some of this reserve could also be re-allocated by a decision of Council, but to do so would be imprudent, as it includes such things as provision for unexpected operational costs and Long Service Leave provision.

So, in summary, the cash on hand is real but very little of it is available for discretionary spending. That is why Cooloola Shire is Queensland's most financially sustainable shire. This Council has been budgeting carefully and putting aside funds for upcoming projects. That is sound strategic financial planning as recognised by the Queensland Treasury Corporation.

G95/02/08 Moved: Cr I.T. Petersen

Seconded: Cr J. Watt

That the report be received.

Carried

Mud Deposited on Roadway at Dagon

Cr W.W Sachs advised Council that he had received a report from a Dagon resident that mud had been deposited on the Mary Valley Road near Keith McKay Bridge.

Cr J. Watt advised that the mud deposit was coming from truck wheels exiting from a nearby paddock where harvesting was occurring. The problem would be short-lived and self resolving.

Increase Lighting at Taxi Ranks

Cr J. Watt advised that she had received a request for more suitable lighting at taxi ranks.

G96/02/08 Moved: Cr J. Watt

Seconded: Cr I.T. Petersen

That the matter of lighting at taxi ranks be referred to the Director of Engineering to investigate and report back to a future Works and Services Committee Meeting.

Carried

Raising of Spillway at Borumba Dam

Cr J. Watt requested Council to enquire from Sunwater if there were any plans to raise the spillway at Borumba Dam.

Cr M.J Venardos OAM responded saying he will follow up with Sunwater on Cr J. Watt's behalf.

Disused Bus Shelters

Cr W.J McIntyre advised Council that he had received a report from a local bus driver of a bus shelter within the Shire that had not being used for over 12 months.

G97/02/08 Moved: Cr W.J. McIntyre

Seconded: Cr S.S. Jocusen

That the Mayor, through the press, ask that conveyancing committees inform Council when bus shelters are not being used to enable them to be considered for relocation.

Carried

Bruce Highway Bypass

Cr M.J Venardos OAM tabled the following letter to The Prime Minister, The Hon Kevin Rudd MP, reiterating Council's position on the Bruce Highway Bypass for Council's information.

"It has been reported in our local daily newspaper the Gympie Times, on Thursday 21 February 2008, that your government is reducing funding for the

proposed Bruce Highway bypass from Cooroy to Curra by approximately \$500m (article attached).

This bypass has been the centre of a great deal of controversy and public concern during the early stages of the planning and consultation process.

To receive the news through the local media, that funding is to be stopped, is at the very least extremely disappointing, especially for a highway that is so greatly in need of upgrades.

I must point out that at a recent conference in Brisbane, the former Federal Minister for Roads, the Honourable Mark Vaile responded to a question put by myself regarding the funding for this much needed bypass. The response from the Minister was “The Government has locked in the funding on the bypass and planning and construction will proceed”. It is extremely important to the users of the Bruce Highway that work continue.

Any reduction will only aggravate and not reduce the carnage that is experienced on that section of the highway which is notorious for accidents.

I would especially appeal to you to urgently review the decision by your Government, and particularly to your Minister for Infrastructure, Anthony Albanese to reinstate this ‘locked in’ funding.

Notwithstanding that the proposed Traveston Crossing Dam has an influence on the portion of the highway in the vicinity of the Federal Hall, this should in no way prevent the planning and construction of this bypass.

I can reaffirm my Council’s position of support for the bypass and would encourage the continued cooperation and support between State and Federal Government to ensure the completion of the bypass. If deemed appropriate, I would endeavour to arrange a meeting with the Federal Minister to put forward our case.

I look forward to your early response.”

COUNCIL IN COMMITTEE

The Mayor advised the meeting that Council was going “Into Committee” to discuss

1. Toolara Central Landfill Project
2. Property Access – Lot 40 MCH701

G98/02/08

Moved: Cr S.S. Jocusmen

Seconded: Cr L.J. Friske

That pursuant to the provisions of Section 463 of the Local Government Act, Council resolves to close the meeting to the public and move “into committee” to consider the following matter/s:-

- 1. Toolara Central Landfill Project**
- 2. Property Access – Lot 40 MCH701**

Further, that in relation to the provisions of Section 250 of the Act, Council resolves that following the closing of the meeting to the public and the moving ‘into committee’ that all matters and all documents (whether in hard copy, electronic, optical, visual or magnetic form) discussed, raised, tabled and/or considered whilst the meeting is closed and ‘in committee’, are confidential to the Council and the Council wishes to keep them confidential.

Carried

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

The Meeting adjourned for morning tea at 10.11am.

RESUMPTION OF MEETING

The Meeting resumed at 10.25am.

Health & Community Services Manager Mr M Grant was present at the resumption of the meeting.

The Mayor, Cr M.J Venardos OAM welcomed Mr Peter Locos, Assistant General Manager, Exotic Production and Mr Mike Robinson, Forest Manager, Fraser Coast, both from Forestry Plantations Queensland, to the Chamber to address Council on Late In Committee Item 1.

COUNCIL OUT OF COMMITTEE

G99/02/08

Moved: Cr S.S. Jocusen

Seconded: Cr I.T. Petersen

That proceedings be resumed in Open Council.

Carried

SECTION 12: IN COMMITTEE MATTERS

Late In Committee Item 1 Toolara Central Landfill Project

Re: Toolara Central Landfill Project
From: Mr P. Locos, Assistant General Manager, Exotic Production,
Forestry Plantations Queensland, PO Box 1339, Gympie QLD
4570
File:
Date: 22 February 2008

G100/02/08 Moved: Cr L.J. Friske Seconded: Cr N.R. Ellis

That the purchase of the Toolara Central Landfill site be referred to the Gympie Regional Council with this Council's very strong recommendations for action.

Further, that Council staff be authorised to investigate native title implications and possible Government subsidies.

Carried

Cr M.J Venardos OAM thanked Mr Locos and Mr Robinson for their address to Council and they left the meeting at 10.54am.
Mr M. Grant left the meeting at 10.54am.
Mr C. Manson left the meeting at 10.54am and returned at 10.57am.

Late In Committee Item 2 Property Access – Lot 40 MCH701

Re: Property Access – Lot 40 MCH701
From: Warren Pitt MP, Minister for Main Roads and Local Government,
PO Box 15031, City East QLD 4002
File: WG94/00022 : Doc ID: 880180
Date: 21 February 2008

G101/02/08 Moved: Cr L.J. Friske Seconded: Cr J. Watt

That Council inform The Hon Warren Pitt MP, Minister for Main Roads and Local Government that the issue of property access to Lot 40 MCH701 is a civil matter and is entirely outside Council's jurisdiction.

Carried Unanimously

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11.25am.

Confirmed this FOURTH day of MARCH 2008

CHAIRMAN