

ALICE SPRINGS TOWN COUNCIL
RISK MANAGEMENT AND AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING
 MINUTES OF MEETING
 HELD FRIDAY 13 MARCH 2020 AT 12:00 NOON
 ARUNTA ROOM, CIVIC CENTRE

1. ATTENDANCE:

PRESENT:

Mr Iain Summers (Chair)
 Mayor Damien Ryan
 Deputy Mayor Matt Paterson
 Councillor Glen Auricht
 Councillor Eli Melky (arrived at 12.08pm)
 Councillor Jimmy Cocking

OFFICERS:

Mr Robert Jennings, Chief Executive Officer
 Ms Sabine Taylor, Director Corporate Services
 Mr Scott Allen, Director Technical Services
 Mr Simon Duke, Acting Director Community Development
 Ms Jodie Summers, Manager Governance
 Mrs Natasha Taylor, Risk and Compliance Officer
 Mr Jason van Riel, Senior Executive Assistant (Minutes)

13th Alice Springs Town Council RISK MANAGEMENT & AUDIT COMMITTEE	29 Jul - 2019	4 Oct - 2019	13 Mar-2020
Iain Summers	✓	✓	✓
Mayor Damien Ryan	✓	✓	✓
Deputy Mayor Matt Paterson	✓	✓	✓
Councillor Jamie de Brenni	✓		
Councillor Jimmy Cocking	A	A	✓
Councillor Glen Auricht	✓	✓	✓
Councillor Eli Melky		✓	✓

✓	Attended
✓ Proxy	Proxy attended in place of committee member
A	Apology received
--	No attendance and no apology recorded

The meeting opened at 12:04pm

APOLOGIES:

Nil

The Chair welcomed Ms Sabine Taylor, Director Corporate Services, to her first Risk Management and Audit Committee (RMAC) meeting.

2. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

Nil

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**3.1 UNCONFIRMED Minutes – Risk Management and Audit Committee 4 October 2019****RESOLVED:**

The Committee confirmed the minutes of the Risk Management and Audit Committee Open meeting held 4 October 2020 as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

Moved: Councillor Glen Auricht

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Matt Paterson

12.08pm Councillor Eli Melky entered meeting

3.2 Business Arising from the Previous Minutes**3.2.1 RMAC Meeting Action Items**

The Chair recommended further work on the End of Year Financial Statements to separate out Capital and Operating grants.

ACTION: In the Statement of Comprehensive Income, Manager Finance is to consider restoring the separate disclosure of “Amounts Received for New and Upgraded Assets” and move the “Amounts Received for Financial Assistance Grants” into Income.

Mayor Ryan enquired regarding minutes Action ref 5.1.1 (relating to street lighting in the Financial Statements) as to what the potential liability for Council is for not paying a street lighting invoice issued by PowerWater.

The CEO provided clarification; Council is currently only paying one part of the bill. The Mayor requested further clarification on the financial liability to Council for not paying the bill and if Council has the budget to cover this liability.

Mayor Ryan commented that the Street Lighting Reserve was created to reduce the impact on rate payers if Council is forced to take on and maintain the aged street lighting infrastructure in the future.

The Chair questioned whether this issue should be tracked through the RMAC, which won't meet again until May, or if more regular updates are required through a different committee or the budget process.

Mayor Ryan stated his concern that this item was listed as complete, whereas this item is clearly still open. Mayor Ryan also questioned what Council Solicitor's view is on this.

The Committee requested clarification be provided to the Council, or the appropriate Council Committee, about Council's financial liability for street lighting infrastructure and unpaid PowerWater Corporation bills, and whether the Council has the budget and/or reserves to cover the liability.

ACTION: Manager Governance to provide a report to the Corporate Services Committee, clarifying financial liability relating to street lighting infrastructure and unpaid PowerWater Corporation Bills.

3.2.2 RWMF Environmental Performance Monitoring

It was noted that this matter was being addressed through internal contract management processes.

3.2.3 2020 RMAC meeting schedule and work plan

The Chair commented that, for the meeting scheduled for 29 May 2020, he may need to attend by teleconference.

No further comments on this item.

3.2.4 Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

The signed, unqualified audit opinion for year ended 30 June 2019 was noted.

RESOLVED:

The Committee noted the Business Arising Report subject to the two action items being completed.

Moved: Councillor Jimmy Cocking
Seconded: Councillor Eli Melky

4. GENERAL BUSINESS

4.1 Governance Update

The Chair asked the new Director Corporate Services, Sabine Taylor, to give an overview of the new Corporate Services Directorate.

Director Corporate Services advised that the Directorate includes Information Communication and Technology (ICT), Finance, Payroll, Customer Service, Rates, Governance and Risk Management.

4.2 RMAC Charter and Terms of Reference

Risk and Compliance Officer advised that the RMAC Charter was due for review in 2019. With the new Local Government Act 2019 commencing on 1 July 2020, the new Act and Regulations will be considered in the development of a new Terms of Reference.

The Chair confirmed that at the May RMAC meeting there will be a brief of the changes that will impact the RMAC.

Risk and Compliance Officer further advised that once the Local Government Act 2019 commences, the RMAC will be conducted in confidential.

Councillor Cocking enquired if Council will have an opportunity to give feedback on the draft Regulations.

Manager Governance confirmed that Council Officers will review the draft and provide feedback to the Department of Local Government on behalf of Council.

Councillor Melky enquired about the RMAC meeting becoming completely confidential and what section of the Local Government Act allows provides for this.

Manager Governance clarified that the new Local Government Act specifies that Audit Committees may be conducted entirely in confidential.

Manager Governance took on notice how these confidentiality provisions will work precisely as they may depend on the Regulations.

ACTION: Manager Governance to determine how confidentiality provisions will work and report to the Committee.

5. **AGENDA ITEMS MOVED FROM CONFIDENTIAL INTO OPEN**

5.1 **Items to be transferred from Confidential Section to Open Section**

10.3 **COVID-19 Update**

The CEO and Director Corporate Services provided an update on Council's COVID-19 response. This includes the establishment of the COVID-19 Crisis Management Team led by the CEO. Council is currently reviewing media and Council events, as well as staff policies. Furthermore, Council is reviewing its insurance policy and what needs to be done for the broader community.

Council is looking at how people are using Council facilities and determining what services are critical to maintain, at what point Council offices will have to shut down, and how Council meetings will proceed.

Mayor Ryan enquired what Council's policy would be regarding staffing and working from home provisions.

Director Corporate Services advised that Council staff who won't be working will be required to use up their leave (annual leave first, then personal leave). Once all leave is used up there will be no payment of salary. Furthermore, Council is reviewing its ICT operations to determine working from home procedures.

The Committee was satisfied that the processes outlined appeared appropriate.

Mayor Ryan requested a COVID-19 report be presented to Council at the Standing Committee meetings Monday 16 March 2020.

RESOLVED:

The Committee agreed to bring the COVID-19 Update into the Open Section.

Moved: Mayor Damien Ryan

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Paterson

6. **NEXT MEETING:** Friday 29 May 2020

RESOLVED:

That the Risk Management and Audit Committee meeting stands adjourned and resumes in the Confidential Section.

Moved: Councillor Eli Melky

Seconded: Councillor Jimmy Cocking

The meeting adjourned at 12:34pm

Confirmed on: _____

CHAIRPERSON _____
Iain Summers

ALICE SPRINGS TOWN COUNCIL
RISK MANAGEMENT AND AUDIT COMMITTEE
13 MARCH 2020

KEY ISSUES FROM THE MEETING FOR COUNCIL'S ATTENTION:

1. The Committee requested clarification be provided to the Council, or the appropriate Council Committee, about management's assessment of Council's financial liability for street lighting infrastructure, and unpaid PowerWater Corporation billings, and whether the Council has the budget and/or reserves to cover the liability.
2. The Committee noted that, with the new Local Government Act 2019 commencing on 1 July 2020, the changes in the Act and Regulations will be considered in the review of the Committee's Terms of Reference at its meeting in May 2020. The Committee requested advice about, in particular, the extent to which Committee meetings would be conducted as Confidential.
3. The CEO and Director Corporate Services provided an update on Council's COVID-19 response as at the date of the meeting. The Committee was satisfied that the processes outlined appeared appropriate as at the meeting date and that further reporting to the Council Standing Committees would be occurring on 16 March.

Iain Summers
Chair